



*Every Boy Needs a Rites of Passage*

# THORNHILL RITES OF PASSAGE FOUNDATION

## MISSION AND BACKGROUND

Our mission is to empower young men of color to navigate unique cultural challenges — social, economic and developmental — by building the **Core4: Character, Competence, Competitiveness and Citizenship** to secure access to a future without limits.

Founded in 2016 by attorney Wayne L. Thornhill, and his wife, Michelle, the Foundation is rooted in the values and “strategic parenting” approach they used in raising their two sons, and program cohorts, which deepens knowledge in areas aligned with their individual interests and cultivates future success. Ensuring their sons had a yearlong Rites of Passage experience when they turned 12, this grounding was the impetus for the **HūMan Rites Of Passage Program™ (HūROP)**.

## HŪMAN RITES OF PASSAGE EXPERIENCE

Our thoughtfully curated and comprehensive curriculum provides a continuum of development for young men, starting in Grade 7, with programming impactful today and critical to their long-term success.

### HūMan Rites Of Passage Program™ (HūROP)

- This program targets 7th–8th grade boys of color who participate in a 12-month experience that prepares them for manhood, including mentorship by an engaged network of successful male mentors.
- Through experiential sessions, the holistic program covers nine focus areas of development (*see reverse side*) that aim to positively impact young men of color and the communities they will serve.
- The experience culminates with the young men delivering a public speech in multiple languages, and the fathers decreeing a blessing over their son.



### OUR TEAM

**Wayne L. Thornhill, Esq.**  
*Founder/CEO*

**Michelle A. Thornhill**  
*Co-Founder/COO*

**Natia Walker**  
*Program Consultant*

**LaTonja Harris**  
*Parent & School Outreach Coordinator*

**Wanda Ramirez**  
*Activities Coordinator*

**Nigel Denny**  
**Emma Piscitelli**  
*College Interns*

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Wayne L. Thornhill, Esq.**  
*CEO and Founder*

**Mike Walker**  
*Board Chair*

**Valerie Williams**  
*Marketing and Communications Chair*

**Kwasi Thornhill**  
*Student Advisor*

### STRATEGIC PARTNERS

Emerald Lakes Golf Club  
Home2Suites  
Kohl's  
United Way of Central Carolinas  
Xenia Hospitality



## PARTICIPANT BENEFITS

- Build confidence and develop leadership skills
- Positive racial identity and self-advocacy
- Life-long brotherhood, mentorship and expanded social network
- Preparedness for high school and beyond
- Exploration of careers through interest and skill development
- Strong money management and entrepreneurship foundation

## PROGRAM OUTCOMES

- Increased confidence and empowerment to become the best versions of themselves
- Greater connectedness, sense of trust and belonging
- Highly sought after for boarding, independent, and magnet schools and universities
- 100% of young men have a male mentor in their career of interest
- At least \$500 in a teen checking account based on learned money-management techniques

## PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

- Commitment to participate in monthly sessions
- Double seed capital to support entrepreneurial endeavors
- Be open to new experiences and meeting new people
- Dress for Success, wearing attire provided by TROPF
- Have fun!

## PARENT EXPECTATIONS

- Nurture your son while allowing him to grow (Be supportive but don't do his work)
- Recruit and mentor new families in the program
- Volunteer for at least one session as a speaker or chaperone; serve as mentor
- Father or significant male figure speaks words of encouragement at the culminating ceremony
- Pay it forward for the next cohort of young men who could benefit from the program

## CURRICULUM BREAKDOWN

Our multifaceted program includes **nine focus areas of development: social, physical, intellectual, civic, economic, spiritual, moral, cultural and global**. Participants meet the third Saturday of each month, with the exception of a few sessions that are overnight. The 12-month program costs \$3,000 — scholarships are available based on income.

FOCUS AREA	SESSION TOPIC	FOCUS AREA	SESSION TOPIC
Physical	Fueling Your Body	Economic	Small Business Pitch Competition
Intellectual	Emotional Intelligence/ Strategic Thinking	Cultural/Global	Know Your Narrative
Economic	Money Matters	Spiritual/Social	Leadership on the Line
Social	Social Etiquette	Intellectual	College Tour (location varies each year)
Civic	Legal Awareness and Advocacy	Moral/Physical/Social	Life and Survival Skills

Submit your application to [www.tropf.org](http://www.tropf.org) by April 1 to secure a spot for your son in the next cohort.

CONTACT | [www.TROPF.org](http://www.TROPF.org) • 704.412.4275 • [info@TROPF.org](mailto:info@TROPF.org)

Instagram [HumanRitesOfPassage](#) • Facebook and LinkedIn [Thornhill Rites of Passage Foundation](#)