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## Local sixth-grader plans to attend leader conference

*BY LESLIE BIXLER*  
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FREMONT -- Marquis Crawford, a sixth-grader at Otis Elementary School, is planning to go to the Junior National Young Leader's Conference in Washington, D.C., June 6-11.

He has sent out letters to businesses and is selling candy bars at church and school in order to raise the funds to go, which is a little more than \$2,000.

He was nominated by his teacher, James Plaunt.

"Well I was really excited (when he found out he was nominated) and it was a shock to me," Crawford said. "I will be attending a conference and visiting national monuments."

Crawford plans to take his camera for the special fieldtrips, which includes the White House.

Crawford's mother, Jennifer Sims, said, "I was very proud and was actually nervous about it," she said when she first found out. "My husband said this is a once in a lifetime chance."

Brooklyn Swaisgood, also a sixth-grader at the school, has been nominated by her teacher Tracie Dye. She hopes to go in August.

"We're doing everything we can do to get her there," her grandma, Linda DePottey said. Brooklyn is the granddaughter of Linda and Steve.

"I want the chance to go," Swaisgood said, noting she is grateful for even being nominated.

Darrion Walker, an Otis fifth-grader hopes to go in June with Crawford. He said he is appreciative of his teacher Mr. Plaunt nominating him.

"I was excited because I was thinking I might get to see the president," he said.

He is the son of Crystal Walker.

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Darrion Walker, Brooklyn Swaisgood and Marquis Crawford are seen in the hallway at Otis Elementary School in Fremont. The three students have been nominated by their teachers to attend the Junior National Young Leader's Conference in Washington, D.C., in early June. (Jonathon Bird | News-Messenger)