

School Scene

Fall 2016
Vol. 10, Issue 3



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Quick Links

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In This Issue

- President's Welcome, by Jack Crawford, National TSA President
- National TSA Week, by Zac Quinby, National TSA Vice President
- Featured Members, by Erin Sullivan, National TSA Secretary
- Promote TSA Membership, by Javonate Williams, National TSA Treasurer
- Learning to Lead in a Technical World, by Aala Nasir, National TSA Reporter
- Manage Your Time, by Lauren Kim, National TSA Sergeant-at-Arms

President's Welcome

By Jack Crawford, National TSA President

NationalTSAPresident@tsaweb.org

Three weeks after the 2016 national TSA conference in Nashville, Tennessee, the national TSA officers met in Reston, Virginia to develop our program of work. Here are the highlights of our first meeting and what is in store for the upcoming year.

The national officer team proudly released this year's social media hashtag #MadeInTSA. Many members have already taken advantage of the opportunity to share how TSA has made them into who they are today and I look forward to seeing many more stories throughout the year.

At our meeting we also considered suggestions made by members, and decided to update portions of the TSA website including toolkits and the Featured Member section. Additionally, we will increase communication between state delegations and the national officers, and continue to raise college awareness of TSA. Keep an eye out throughout the year for more updates on these initiatives!

In addition to attending state conferences and the national TSA conference, please take part in events such as National TSA Week, Advisor Appreciation Week, and CTE Month as the school year progresses. Our organization is quickly approaching a quarter of a million members which means our standards of excellence will continue to rise. Take pride in TSA as we reach this milestone together and make this an exceptional year for our organization.

The national officer team also encourages you to use this year to achieve your personal goals and set even higher ones. Please contact one of us if we can be of any assistance and we will do the best we can to help you.

National TSA Week

By Zac Quinby, National TSA Vice President

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During the week of October 3-7, 2016, TSA will proudly celebrate National TSA Week. This week is for you, the members, to showcase our wonderful organization and raise awareness of TSA.

This week is all about you because what would TSA be without you? As members we are the core of this organization and have the power to help it grow and thrive. There is no better way of doing this than through social media and stories of our own. I urge you to take advantage of this special week by drawing on your own experiences and utilizing electronic media to bring awareness to TSA. Please be sure to hashtag the following daily themes and don't forget to use #MadelnTSA.

October 3rd - #MadelnTSA Monday: Post any story you might have about your experiences in TSA to explain how you have been #MadelnTSA. Examples include "My communication skills were #MadelnTSA," "My ability to successfully manage my time is being #MadelnTSA," or "My ability to work as a team is being #MadelnTSA."

October 4th - Teammate Tuesday: Post a photo of you and your chapter teammate(s). Ideas might include a photo of you and a teammate dressed in TSA attire while attending a conference, a photo of teammates working together on a competition, conducting a meeting, participating in a TSA leadership session, etc.

October 5th - Why TSA Wednesday: Post a photo of anything related to TSA and tell us WHY you choose to be a part of TSA.

October 6th - Throwback Thursday: Post a favorite TSA photo of you and your chapter from your early years in TSA. Ideas might include a photo of your first TSA conference or working on your first competition.

October 7th - Forever TSA Friday: Post a collage of all chapter photos relating to TSA.

Featured Members

By Erin Sullivan, National TSA Secretary

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Our organization is and always has been made up of amazing members and strong chapters. It is astonishing to witness the awesome projects and unique talents that the members who comprise our organization possess. However, many members don't always see how other members and chapters are

defining their future through TSA. TSA has a Featured Members section on the website just waiting to feature your stories. This year, the national TSA officer team wants to encourage showcasing creative chapters and spectacular students. We want to hear your story or your chapter's story.

We want to hear how you're learning to lead in a technical world.

- If your chapter is successful at fundraising for the American Cancer Society, share your tips with others so TSA can continue to help fight cancer.
- Maybe a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity came along for you because of an interest that began through TSA.
- Tell us how STEM gave you the skills you needed to succeed in middle or high school.
- You might know an alumni who is leading in a unique way. We want to know how they were #MadeInTSA.
- An advisor who has incredible dedication to your chapter and never ceases to amaze you is the perfect choice for the Featured Members section of the TSA website. Interview this advisor and share their point of view to help inspire other chapters.

It is our goal to share as many stories as we can through the Featured Members section on the TSA website in the hope that we can share unique perspectives and new ideas. Let us help you help your fellow members. Share your stories today by sending a short summary and photo to lhaitz@tsaweb.org.

Promote TSA Membership
By Javonate Williams, National TSA Treasurer
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TSA is a great association and it is a privilege to be part of an organization that exceeds 245,000 members nationwide. Our TSA membership is comprised of 2,000 plus chapters.

What is really special about being a member of TSA is the creativity and excitement that you can gain from receiving recognition for applying your STEM knowledge through competitions. You have the opportunity to showcase your competition skills at school as well as at regional and state conferences.

I hope you will share your passion for TSA by encouraging your friends who enjoy STEM education to join your chapter. If your friends attend a school other than your school, encourage them to start a TSA chapter. Information about how to start a TSA chapter can be found on the national TSA website, tsaweb.org.

If you have any questions on how to start a TSA chapter feel free to contact any of the national TSA officers and we will gladly guide you in the right direction.

Learning to Lead in a Technical World
By Aala Nasir, National TSA Reporter
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The national TSA conference this past June was definitely one for the books. Not only did our conference have the largest attendance in TSA history, but a new leadership initiative by the name of LEAP, which stands for *Leadership. Education. Achievement. Personal Growth.*, was launched and the TSA motto was changed from "Learning to live in a technical world" to "Learning to lead in a technical world".

The new LEAP Program, which strives to highlight and enhance members' leadership roles, is beautifully reflected in the new motto.

In TSA we have learned that being a leader goes beyond titles. A leader is one who empowers others in efforts of transforming a vision to reality. This can be demonstrated in various ways as leadership is not a one-way street. Rather, it is a diverging path; a trail with endless routes to take. We learned that leadership means knowing when to lead as well as when to follow.

Let's celebrate our new TSA motto by sharing through social media what makes you a leader and how your leadership skills were #MadeInTSA.

Manage Your Time **By Lauren Kim, National TSA Sergeant-at-Arms** NationalTSASergeantatArms@tsaweb.org

It is not too early to choose and start preparing for your competitive events. Truly, you will get out of your competitions what you put into them, and much of your success and enjoyment is dependent on your time management skills. These skills are extremely crucial to your success in TSA.

If you are a returning member of TSA you know there are times when some students might procrastinate beginning or completing their competitive event until the week or even the day before a conference. However, this is definitely not the best way to compete successfully. Coordinating with your team to complete portfolios and events in advance allows for more flexibility; cramming beforehand inevitably leads to cranky all-nighters and team tension. TSA is a competition, but most of all, it is supposed to be a fun and enjoyable learning experience. Preparing early relieves the pressure on individuals and better the total experience.

By completing a project a month to two weeks before a conference, you can spend the last few weeks reviewing, revising, and adding finishing touches. In addition, you can thoroughly prepare for semifinalist interviews and presentations.

Using time management can be simple through the use of several accessible resources and tips. You and your team should set deadlines for when specific parts of a portfolio or project are due; furthermore, you should hold other teammates accountable to ensure that the project is finished promptly. In addition, meeting in person can aid in the completion of events; going to a local library and setting aside time to work can be extremely beneficial. Being able to talk face-to-face rather than through text messaging and other social media can eliminate miscommunication errors.

Hopefully, these tips will encourage you to make strategic use of your time.

The Technology Student Association fosters personal growth, leadership, and opportunities in technology, innovation, design, and engineering. Members apply and integrate science, technology, engineering, and mathematics concepts through co-curricular activities, competitive events, and related programs.

School Scene (ISSN 1066-341X) is published three times a year by the Technology Student Association, 1914 Association Drive, Reston, VA 20191-1540. Telephone: 703-860-9000; Fax: 703-758-4852. Web site: www.tsaweb.org.

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