

# School Scene



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## A Survival Packing Guide

By Kelsey Stoner, National TSA President

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It is that time of the year again, TSA members, advisors, and parents. It is time to start preparing for the 38th annual national TSA conference in Nashville, TN. At this moment, we are a little over one month

away from the best week of the year and I am here to tell you what is needed to prepare for this unforgettable week. This is the *National TSA Conference Survival Packing Guide*.

1. Let's begin with my favorite item to pack: **the official TSA attire**. Ladies, grab your grey dress slacks or gray skirt and your favorite pair of black shoes. Gentlemen, don't forget the official TSA necktie. Everyone, please be sure you have an official blue TSA oxford shirt available from the TSA store. Without this you will be unable to compete.
2. Pack some **snacks**. You never know when you need a little bit of extra energy.
3. One of my favorite things to pack is a **drawstring bag**, preferably a TSA one. This bag will be a lifesaver when you're going back and forth from your sleeping room to competitions.
4. **Robert's Rules of Order**. Even if you are not involved in Chapter Team, it will make the business meeting much easier to understand and a lot more interesting.
5. **The perfect attitude**. This is going to be the best week of your life. One week at a national TSA conference can change your entire life and I hope that you come willing to let it.

I truly hope that this short guide can be helpful and inspiring. The 2015-2016 national TSA officer team is looking forward to welcoming you to the great state of Tennessee for the national TSA conference!

## It Will Be Here Before We Know It - LEAP

By Jack Crawford, National TSA Vice President

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This June at the national TSA conference in Nashville, Tennessee, TSA will be taking the topic of leadership to a previously untouched level. A leadership initiative centered on the students of the Technology Student Association has been created and has the support of the TSA, Inc. Board of Directors. The program is called LEAP It stands for "Leadership. Education. Achievement. Personal Growth." As someone who never fails to mention the leadership aspect of our association I am excited, as is the rest of the 2015-2016 national TSA officer team, to see this new program released this summer.

The purpose of LEAP is to encourage students to be the best member they can be as they seek knowledge about themselves, the organization, and their local community while demonstrating leadership.

The vision of the LEAP program is that "TSA members will take action through leadership, education, achievement, and personal growth to bring life to the TSA motto, creed, and mission statement."

As we approach the national TSA conference, keep your eyes open for more information concerning LEAP at [www.tsaweb.org](http://www.tsaweb.org) as well as through national TSA's social media platforms. LEAP will elevate our organization to an unprecedented level of innovation and prestige and I cannot wait to see what the future holds as we *leap* into a new outlet for learning to live in a technical world.

## Joining the National TSA Alumni Association

By Sofia Atzrodt, National TSA Secretary

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As the year comes to a close, the class of 2016 is making college and career decisions that will shape their future. Before the 2016 national TSA conference even occurs, most seniors will have

committed to a college or made plans to start employment. However, it is just as important to consider this question: what happens after TSA?

It can be a surprise when seniors realize they have just a few weeks left as a competitive member of TSA. However, their support and participation for the organization is far from over. It is crucial for them to consider their next chapter as a TSA member: joining TSA's extensive alumni network.

Though alumni are not competitive members of TSA, they serve an equally important purpose. They are most often seen serving as event coordinators or judges and do much of the behind-the-scenes work at conferences.

Outside of conferences, TSA alumni are proud advocates for career and technical student organizations (CTSOs) and STEM education. They realize the effect TSA has had on their life and make it a goal to share this influence with students and educators alike. Furthermore, alumni share important connections that can be crucial when interviewing with a potential employer.

High school seniors interested in joining the national TSA alumni association should attend the Graduating Senior/Alumni Reception to be held at the national TSA conference in Nashville or use the TSA Directory on [tsaweb.org](http://tsaweb.org) to contact a national TSA alumni officer. Further information is also available at the state level.

To all TSA seniors, thank you for your dedication to this organization. We wish you success in your future endeavors and welcome you to affiliate with TSA's alumni network.

## **We Are Counting Down the Days** **By Cesia Flores, National TSA Treasurer** [NationalTSATreasurer@tsaweb.org](mailto:NationalTSATreasurer@tsaweb.org)

In about six weeks, we will all be together at the national TSA conference in Nashville, Tennessee! Throughout this past year, the national TSA staff, the Tennessee conference management and state officer teams, and the national TSA officer team have been working very hard behind the scenes to make this year's conference a success.

In fact, the success of the national TSA conference lies in the fact that you will get the opportunity to compete against some of the brightest and most innovative students from across the country, to experience the vibrant atmosphere of the nation's "music capital," and to build your legacy alongside TSA members who share your passion for technology.

During the conference, national TSA will be actively posting on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and even Snapchat, so be sure to add national TSA on all of these social media channels before attending the conference! Moreover, during the conference, you may wish to share your TSA experience through social media. Be sure to use the hashtag #TheTSAWay and #TSAnationals in all of your posts and to follow or add any new individuals you meet during the conference, as they could possibly become your college classmates or coworkers in the future!

All in all, the 2015-2016 national officer team is very excited to see everyone in Nashville, Tennessee and wishes you the best of luck in your competitions!

As TSA members, I have no doubt that all of you will be successful in your future endeavors. Many successful Individuals have had their start through TSA, and I am fortunate enough to personally know such a hardworking TSA alumni from Pennsylvania TSA, Mr. Joseph Narke.

Mr. Narke is a recent TSA alumni, who has used the skills developed as a TSA member to succeed in his post-secondary life. While in high school, he used his TSA experience to create a product, the EZ Cut Jig, which enables additional functionality in CNC routers. This engineering design invention was the first stepping stone in his path filled with entrepreneurial success. When asked about the opportunities TSA has helped provide him, he said "TSA has opened many doors for me. Besides working on my own entrepreneurial ventures since graduating high school, I'm the creative director for a startup incubator."

Mr. Narke has also given back to the TSA community by serving as a chapter advisor in his former chapter, as well as serving PA TSA in a mentorship capacity. He was able to share a few words about the impact TSA has had on his life: "TSA had a monumental impact on my life, teaching me time management skills, creative problem solving and collaborative leadership; all crucial components for success in life. I am grateful to this organization, and hope to continue helping students succeed in their own right."

Mr. Narke has found success through TSA, and I know that all of you as TSA members will as well.

## **Voting Delegate 101**

**By Trevor O'Connor, National TSA Sergeant-at-Arms**

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Competition Season is well underway! Along with the many competitive events hosted at our state and national conferences, TSA also provides opportunities for members to get involved and help lead our organization through elected positions. However, no officer would be where they are today without the support of the members of TSA! As far as elections, this support is channeled through voting delegates who vote on behalf of their chapter. If you have the honor of being selected to represent your chapter as a voting delegate here are some helpful tips:

1. **Listen to your chapter** - Not only are you voting for whom you want but also for whom your chapter favors. Make sure to get a diverse opinion on all the candidates. If your chapter is split on whom to vote for you can hold chapter level elections to decide whom you will cast your ballot for.
2. **Visit all the candidate campaign booths** - It is critical that a voting delegate stays informed on each candidate. Even if you are already leaning towards a particular candidate be sure to listen to all of the candidates equally - what they say may change your opinion.
3. **Ask thoughtful questions** - When talking to candidates, prepare some questions you want to ask to learn more about them such as, "How will you accomplish your goals?" "What inspired you to run for office?" "What makes you the best candidate?" You may want to carry a bag to hold any promotional materials the candidates hand out. Additionally, you may want a paper and pen to take notes about your impressions of each candidate.
4. **Arrive early to the business meeting** - The business meeting where the new officers are

elected often will only allow you to vote if you are present. Make sure to arrive at least 30 minutes early so you will be prepared.

5. **Bring a cell phone charger** - At the national TSA conference and in some states voting occurs via cell phone. Your cell phone should be fully charged before you enter the business meeting and ready to last through the meeting. You may also want to eat a snack before you enter the business meeting as it may last a couple of hours.
6. **Stay informed** - Time to brush up on your parliamentary procedure. If you are unfamiliar with parliamentary procedure, you should familiarize yourself with some of the basic elements. If you ever have a question at the business meeting you can always request information at any time by being recognized and saying "Request for information" and then stating your question.

I hope everyone will make an informed decision and will convey your concerns to your voting delegates. Always know that you have a voice in TSA. Best of luck in all your events and best of luck to all candidates.

## Proposed Bylaw Amendment

The following proposed bylaw amendment will be voted on at the upcoming 2016 national TSA conference in Nashville, TN, on July 1st:

### **Amendment 1**

*To amend Section 1 -*

Strike the words "live in a" from the motto and replace them with the words "lead the".

*Current wording:*

"The motto of the Technology Student Association will be:  
'Learning to live in a technical world.'"

*If adopted, wording would be:*

"The motto of the Technology Student Association will be:  
'Learning to lead the technical world.'"

Respectfully submitted by Missouri TSA.

William Lynch, President, Missouri TSA  
Jim Hogan, State Advisor, Missouri TSA

*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.*

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