



President's Welcome

Hey Florida TSA!

I hope everyone had a wonderful summer! As always, it's time to get in gear for another year of excitement and new opportunities.

During the summer, I witnessed many people from across the state sharing ideas and working together on how to make TSA better for themselves and others, creating bylaw amendments and talking about different ways to organize chapters. It is wonderful to see our delegation members reaching out to each other outside of conferences – as your chapter is family to you, the state is a bigger family we are all a part of. I encourage you to reach out, stay connected, and collaborate with your friends from other chapters. Social media is especially useful for this purpose – make sure to follow Florida TSA on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram (@fltsa) to stay updated on important announcements and what your friends across the state are doing!

Additionally, the state officers have a couple of exciting announcements to share: The new and improved Florida TSA website has been released, and the themes for the upcoming leadership and state conference are TSA TV and Hollywood! The year is off to a great start, and it promises to be more engaging than ever before.

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please email the state officer team at florida.tsa.officers@gmail.com. We are always available to listen to your thoughts, and new ideas are especially appreciated. I wish you the best of luck throughout the year!

Nationals Recap

This year at the 2015 National TSA Conference at Dallas, Texas, Florida TSA had another fantastic conference with 118 top ten finalists and 46 top three finalists! We're very proud of everyone who participated, everything may be bigger in Texas, but our delegation is even bigger!

Congratulations to all who participated in the 2015 National TSA Conference – let's strive to make the next year even better!

Sincerely,

Molly Sun - Florida TSA State President



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TSA TV Guide

November 4 - 7, 2015

Leadership Training Conference,
Wyndham Lake Buena Vista

February 24 - 27, 2016

State Conference and Competitions,

Congratulations Sofia Atzrodt National TSA Secretary!



Starting Your Projects

Hello Florida TSA,

If you are a new member, or even a returning member, and you are having trouble starting your projects this year, fear not. All of us in TSA have experienced this at one time or another. Sometimes you just don't know where to begin, so here are a few tips to starting up your projects!

First things first; pick your projects. Find the ones that are right for you because you don't want to get stuck doing something you dislike. Working on something that interests you and you enjoy doing will really pay off in the long run. Not only will it make for more fun while you work on your projects, but working on something you love to do will help make a more detail-oriented and overall better project. You are more likely to find success in a competition you enjoy.

Know how well you work with others. This will help you to choose your events and to know what competition is right for you. If often times you don't like work well with others, you should look for individual events, but I encourage you to try a few in which you work with a team, even if it is just a group of two or three to help you become more of a team player. These skills are very important to have, especially later on in life. Know who you get along with in order to find the right people to be in a team with. You should look for people with similar interests, but don't leave people out of working with you for personal reasons. Everyone can contribute and you can learn vital leadership traits by working with people other than your friends.

If you do end up working in a team for your project(s), be sure to know your job and what you are expected to do. Don't let your team down; they shouldn't have to pick up your slack. Also, be sure not to step on each other's toes. It's good to go the extra mile, but make sure that the work is free. Don't do another team members work for them if they don't ask you for help. The purpose of a group project is to have everyone working together to complete the tasks. Be sure to give everyone the chance to do their own work.

An extra tip to keep in mind as the year progresses and you start your projects is that a project cannot be revised enough times. Go over your projects again and again because there is always room for improvement. The more you check your projects, the better they will get. Also, get multiple people to revise your work. Something that makes sense to you may not make sense to another. Having more editors will help you find simple mistakes that you don't catch yourself, no matter how many times you go over the work yourself.

Pick a project you will enjoy working on with people you will enjoy working with, and don't be afraid to put in the work. Procrastination is best when prevented. Be sure to stay focused and get your work done the right way. Work hard, but don't forget to have fun. Make the best out of your projects and year!

Best of luck, Judah Gwinn - State Vice President

Recruiting New Members Finding new members is extremely important for the success of a chapter. However most chapters struggle in recruiting enough members to replace graduating students. From past experiences, it is important to have graduates mentor incoming TSA members. This strengthens the new members in knowing how TSA functions and learning valuable skills on the way.

Marketing your chapter can be challenging. To gain my school's interest about our TSA chapter, I've done these three strategies listed below:

- Create a 15-30 second script summarizing TSA for the morning and afternoon intercom announcements.
- Create a 30 second ad about your TSA Chapter. It is suggested to show previous projects and conferences.
- Host an Open House: Chapters can have an open house while students pick up class schedules. TSA Open Houses should show your school's lab along with previous projects. For example, Display dragsters for students and parents to view. A TSA member is suggested to stand by a project or lab machine to answer questions and encourage students to come to upcoming chapter meetings. Distribute flyers to students (acquire administration approval ahead of time) in all engineering and arts classes.

Yosh Torralva - Reporter

Fundraising

As the school year comes around again we all start hearing that same phrase... “We need to start thinking about fundraising”. This can come as a hassle for some as it always seems to rain on days you have carwashes or all the other organizations at your school seem so be selling candles and candy the split second the year starts. But don’t be discouraged! There are so many ingenious fundraising opportunities that never crossed your mind. Get your whole chapter together in these fundraising ideas to not only raise money, but unify your chapter and bring you TEAM closer together.

- Hold a lip-sync battle in your school’s auditorium or cafeteria and charge for participation and admission. Sell concessions.
- Put recycling boxes around your school and encourage students and teachers to place their cans and bottles in the boxes rather than the trash can. Take those recyclables to the nearest recycling center that trades recyclables for cash.
- Collect donated items from students and teachers at your school and hold a yard sale. Also, rent “booths” to other organizations for them to sell their stuff at.
- Hold a video game tournament after school one day. Put the game up on the projector on the wall and sell tickets to participate and for admission. Sell concessions.

These are just a few of the many fundraising activities you can do! Think outside the box and do something different, more people will be willing to participate if they think it is interesting or that they are getting something out of it! Don’t get overwhelmed with all this fundraising talk, all that hard work will pay off in the end when you get to attend the conference and win that 1st place trophy. But don’t forget to start planning the fundraising early in the year or it will never get done in time!

Kristianna Nicolai -Treasurer

Efficiently Working

As many know, a TSA project isn’t a night, week, or even month long project. These very detailed, amazing pieces of work take from the beginning of the year up until right before the conference. Although, making it possible for you and your team to finish before the conference take a plan a good time management. Before even starting a project, a team should be sure that their work space is the best it can be to get their work done efficiently.

Set time aside for cleaning and organizing. The time each member will save when they know where every tool or material goes is mind blowing. After your lab is nice and clean and organized meet with your team and make a plan. Having a plan that is well thought out and efficient is the most important step. This should lay out every team member’s responsibilities and the due date for each task. It should also have team meeting date, holding member accountable because they knew the dates in advanced.

Lastly keeping everything the way it was laid out is key. This does not mean that edits and changes can’t be made, but one of the biggest mistakes a team can make is restarting after almost all the work has been complete. Not only does this waste time but it leaves the final project to be completed in a rushed manner. If a team has an organized work space, a plan, and good and efficient team work they can accomplish greatness!

Kaitlin Bohan -Sergeant at Arms

Communication leads to community, that is, to understanding, intimacy and mutual valuing.

-Rollo May

The key to a unified chapter is through a solid foundation of communication. In this network, all parties must actively contribute and seek knowledge to achieve an integrated exchange of ideas. Millennials access hordes of information at their fingertips in today's digital world, placing an even stronger emphasis on the need for clear communication in this sea of technology chaos. To keep members well-informed and parents up-to-date, please consider some of the ideas below. These methods have either been tested by my personal chapter, or are new ideas I would like to implement this year:

Remind - Create a school chapter Remind account (formerly known as "Remind101") to send updates in the convenient form of text messages.

Pros: Can pass information to members quickly and efficiently, also great for keeping parents and advisors in the loop. I use it to send meeting reminders, scheduling updates, and convey extraneous information at conferences. Moreover, subscribers cannot respond to messages (which could be viewed as a con, depending on how much you enjoy correspondence with your chapter).

Cons: Messages cannot exceed a 140 character limit, so it's crucial to be concise... Or blast a 10-part mini series of long-winded texts to the chagrin of your subscribers.

Email - Send periodic emails to all members and their parents updating everyone on the chapter's progress. Bonus points for writing about short- and long-term goals, meeting summaries, fundraising ideas, or community service projects.

Pros: Mostly everyone has an email, and it is a pretty reliable method of communication for a multigenerational audience. Also, no pesky word limit.

Cons: Too many emails can quickly accumulate in your recipients' mailboxes, causing people to avoid reading chapter messages and missing out on important information. Unlike texts, users have to put forth more "effort" to open an email. Additionally, emails are not checked by students as regularly as texts.

Facebook - Create a Facebook group and post periodically.

Pros: FB is fairly mainstream, meaning most kids and parents should have one. The site also has interesting features - such as polls, comments, and direct messaging - to further engage members. Information is easily viewed by all followers.

Cons: As mentioned above: FB is fairly mainstream, meaning most kids and parents should have one. Translation - students are leaving FB in hordes to pursue other 'trendier' platforms, and their accounts are collecting digital dust. Some kids rarely check FB, which is not promising news if you want to utilize this site as a channel to distribute chapter information.

Twitter/ Instagram/ Other Snazzy Social Media Platform - If you have a large chapter, the officers can maintain social media pages. If you are feeling inspired, create a special chapter hashtag and encourage members to use it!

Pros: Your chapter is relevant! And cool! And exciting! Information spreads like wildfire on social media, and members are more inclined to contribute photos and snippets of knowledge on these platforms.

Cons: The older generation might not have accounts on newer social media programs, and they are generally more difficult to navigate for non web-savvy users. Also, I learned last year that posting several times on Instagram is a social taboo, and people are stingy about their following/follower ratio! So, just make sure your chapter is #teamfollowback.

I hope this year your chapter will strive to create a strong communication hub for members, parents, advisors, and your loyal fan base. Happy networking!

Madelyn Kumar - Secretary

