

School Scene



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February Celebration

By Kelsey Stoner, National TSA President

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Happy Career and Technical Education (CTE) month, TSA members! This is definitely the most wonderful time of the year.

The month of February is our time to celebrate Career and Technical Education and the achievements and accomplishments of CTE programs across the country. This year's theme of "Opportunities for Career Success" gives all of us the chance to tell stories of leadership and excellence happening in our CTE programs and raise awareness of the crucial role CTE plays in preparing us for careers.



I am very fortunate to have the opportunity to advocate for CTE to my state legislators and also witness Governor Terry McAuliffe sign the Virginia CTE Month Proclamation. I hope that you are also finding ways to celebrate Career and Technical Education Month in your states and spread the word of our strong organizations!

Career and Technical Education has deeply affected us all. When I advocate, I always share the many moments that led me to my future career path and defined me as a person. I share the difference that CTE has made in millions of student's lives all across the country.

When I define Career and Technical Education, I define it as a chance for young people to discover their skills and talents. Through organizations like TSA, students are able to take the knowledge they learn in school and combine it with their natural talents in areas such as design, engineering, public speaking, and more. CTE can open doors for the future, ignite a spark of confidence in shy students, and provide young people with exposure to real world problem solving.

This month, I encourage everyone to make an extra effort to be sure that Career and Technical Education, and especially TSA, receives the recognition that it deserves! Speak to your local school board, make posters for your school, and talk to neighbors. All of these actions will draw positive attention to the value of Career and Technical Education!

Are You Eligible for TSA Scholarships?

By Jack Crawford, National TSA Vice President

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Many of us spend nearly all of our middle and high school careers involved in TSA by competing in events, winning awards, and attending conferences. As we graduate from high school and move on to the next chapter of our lives, TSA offers us the opportunity to earn scholarship funds as a type of thank you for years of hard work and dedication.

The [William P. Elrod Memorial Scholarship](#) honors the memory of a founding father of TSA, Mr. William P. Elrod. Mr. Elrod passed away in 1990 but his groundbreaking leadership and involvement in our organization lives on through a special scholarship. This scholarship is available to graduating seniors who are active members of an affiliated TSA chapter and to alumni currently enrolled in an undergraduate program or career/technical school. Applicants must have been members of TSA for two years, have a GPA of 3.0 or higher, have performed services at the local, state, and national level for a

minimum of one academic year, and if a graduating senior, must be an active member of an affiliated TSA chapter. Applicants must have attended and participated in *at least one* TSA conference at the state or national level and must be able to define their financial need for scholarship. To learn more specifics of this scholarship click on the above link. All applicants complete an application package. I encourage anyone who fits this criteria to apply for this scholarship and be rewarded for your hard work and dedication to TSA.

The [Future STEM Teacher Scholarship](#) was developed to assist high school graduates in pursuing a career in the field of K-12 STEM education. At a time when the highest grossing occupations are in STEM fields, it is paramount that we have able educators preparing TSA members to be the future leaders of the workforce. Please apply for this scholarship if you plan to or are already pursuing a career in STEM education and allow TSA to assist you in building your teaching legacy. To learn more specifics of this scholarship click on the above link.

The deadline for the \$2,500 William P. Elrod Scholarship and the \$2,500 Future STEM Teacher Scholarship is Monday, May 2, 2016.

Johnson & Wales University also offers a scholarship to TSA members who are applying to their university. More information about this scholarship is available [here](#).

Start the application process today so that you will not miss the deadline!

Event Terminology Clarification

By Sofia Atzrodt, National TSA Secretary

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As the state conference season grows near members across the nation are putting final touches on their videos, dragsters, and written documentation. As you complete this process it is important to understand exactly what is expected of you for each competitive event. The misinterpretation of a single word can cause a rules violation that can prevent an otherwise perfect project from winning a first place trophy.

For example, a commonly misinterpreted word is "portfolio." A recent amendment to most competition requirements, the portfolio has replaced the binders of previous years. But what exactly is a portfolio? A portfolio is known as a clear front report cover, most commonly a plastic sleeve with a thick binding clip to hold the pages. A sample report cover is available [here](#). As it is the new standard for documentation, it is imperative that you follow the specific portfolio requirements.

You have worked extremely hard to make it this far, so take the time to read the rules and regulations of your events carefully so that you present your work correctly. Of course, if you have questions about event regulations or terminology, it is a good idea to contact the coordinator of the competitive event as soon as possible for clarification. The contact information for event coordinators can be found on the TSA website under the heading "TSA Directory" and subheading "[Competition Regulations Committee](#)."

Before you submit your entries, take the time to carefully review the event guidelines. Best of luck as you prepare your events!

What Will Be Your ACS Fundraiser?

By Cesia Flores, National TSA Treasurer

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Since 2004, TSA has partnered with the American Cancer Society (ACS), a nationwide, voluntary health organization dedicated to eliminating cancer through research, education, advocacy, and service.

Through the years, individual TSA chapters as well as state delegations from across the nation have gotten involved in community fundraising projects for ACS. As a TSA member, I personally urge you to become involved in this type of project because community service provides you with an excellent forum to "Build Your Legacy" by bringing hope to families and patients who feel helpless in the face of adversity.

In fact, the hallmark event of many TSA chapters is the annual ACS Relay for Life. According to the ACS website, the Relay for Life is "a life-changing event that gives everyone in communities across the globe a chance to celebrate the lives of people who have battled cancer, remember loved ones lost, and fight back against the disease." Because cancer never sleeps, ACS Relays are events that can be up to 24 hours in length.

Subsequently, TSA recognizes your efforts to fundraise for ACS whether through the Relay for Life or countless other creative ways. Recognition of chapters, states, and regions through the TSA/ACS Spirit of Service Awards program encompasses three levels of achievement based on the amount of money raised: Silver (\$500-\$999), Gold (\$1,000-\$1,999), and Purple (\$2,000+). Regardless of the rewards that ACS fundraising will bring, always remember to participate in community service projects because as a volunteer you have the power to change millions of lives!

I encourage you to read National TSA Vice President Jack Crawford's February blog. In it, Jack encourages states to combine their ACS/TSA fundraising totals with other states in their region into one grand total. This is a great way to encourage enthusiasm among states!

Corporate Outreach: A Beneficial Investment

By Chirag Agarwal, National TSA Reporter

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Throughout my TSA journey I have advocated ways for chapters to fundraise. Sometimes major success can be found through corporate sponsorship. This is a system where a business agrees to a fundraising level ranging from sponsorship of competition supplies to conference meals to funding transportation expenses. In return, most companies ask for advertising benefits which can range from stickers on a display table, listing their name in the program or mentioning the company's name in a chapter's press release after a successful conference. The essential steps in obtaining sponsors are:

1. Share your ideas with your advisor, chapter officers and members. Always get permission from your advisor and your school before embarking on any type of fundraising. Always follow your school policy for fundraising.
2. Delegate the fundraising responsibility to a dedicated group of individuals. This can range from the officer team to a select committee. Whatever the decision is, make sure the individuals are committed to this responsibility and can handle the task of marketing.
3. Compile a list of local businesses with whom you want to establish business relations. The key

- here is to emphasize businesses who support educational goals.
4. Draft materials to send to these businesses. The preferred form of communication is a letter from your TSA advisor which will ensure that your outreach is reputable. Additional materials may include pamphlets, leaflets, brochures, and maybe a video.
 5. Begin to send materials out. Be sure that the business knows in advance they will be receiving these materials.
 6. Analyze the reception and proceed accordingly. If the business decides to not proceed with sponsorship, don't worry! There cannot be success without some degree of failure. There are plenty of businesses that offer sponsorship and essential services and are willing to help out; you won't be able to find the ones that will help without eliminating the ones that won't.

If your chapter is successful, your advisor can work with the newly established connection to benefit your chapter and ensure that the expectations of the businesses are met.

Good luck!

Running for Office 101

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

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As regional and state competition inches ever closer it is time to think about how you want to shape your TSA career and give back to the organization. A great way to do so is by considering to run for a chapter, state or national office. Here are some tips you may want to consider in how to go about your candidacy:

1. **Seek advice before you make your decision** - Are you sure that you want to make the commitment? Would you be able to devote a significant portion of your time to TSA officer duties? Do you work well with a team and can you stay professional under all circumstances? Do you have good organizational and communication skills?
2. **Stay informed** - Make sure you are up to date on knowledge about TSA programs and services. Locate the application needed to run for office.
3. **Read! Read! Read!** - Every little section of the application is important. Pay close attention to deadlines and the criteria for running for office; know what is expected and the parameters for your campaign. You don't want to show up with 500 packs of gum and find out food items are prohibited from use during a campaign.
4. **Brainstorm your platform** - You have submitted your application. Now, it's time to think about how to actually get elected. Listen to the concerns of the membership, talk to your chapter for advice on what they want to see implemented; consolidate your ideas into structured goals you will advocate if elected.
5. **Think outside the box!** - Your campaign needs to do something that resonates with people and leaves a lasting impression. Most candidates stick to business cards as part of their campaign material, but try to branch out and find something creative. Search for ways to be unique while remembering to be economical.
6. **Practice your speech** - A strong, confident speaker appeals to all of us. Make sure to create a speech that enlivens your audience and conveys your goals and personality. Stumbling over your words and awkward pauses from not practicing your speech will definitely show in the audience.
7. **Have fun!** - I know you will think this is super cliché but it exists for a reason. If you enjoy what you're doing, your excitement and passion will be noticed by those around you. Wouldn't we want someone who's eager to serve our organization? After all, the reason you are running should be

to serve the membership!

I hope for the best for all of you in your TSA careers whether that includes running for office or not. Make sure to use these tips and talk to students and teachers for advice, but most importantly, know that change can happen in a variety of ways - don't let losing an election ever define you! I wish you all the best of luck!

National TSA Officer Candidate Applications

National TSA officer candidate applications are now available. For more information on the national officer candidate qualifications and the application procedure, please see the TSA [website](#).



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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