

Promoting Your TSA Chapter

Growing your TSA chapter presence in your school is an important piece of a strong technology education program. Here are some ideas to help you get started:

- Begin the year with an exciting icebreaker/team-building activity, a brief overview of TSA chapter requirements/annual activities, and information on/introductions to TSA events. Serve food at your first meeting.
- During the first month of school:
 - Be available to talk to all prospective TSA members (in the hall, at lunch or during class). Encourage current members to do the same.
 - Put a membership drive in place.
 - Recognize students that have participated at the state or national conference.
 - Have a family night barbeque.
- Use TSA handouts early in the year:
 - TSA meeting announcement
 - Personally invite students to attend meetings
- Introduce competitive events early in the year so that members can get an idea of what events they may be interested in. This can be done by giving an overview of the events, but for events where it is feasible, it is more exciting to hold mini-competitions. You can continue to introduce events during the first half of the year.
- Make a binder or scrap book with photos of past events that new members can refer to for inspiration.
- Promote fall meetings early to ensure good attendance.

Starting A TSA Chapter

You've decided to start a TSA chapter... now what do you do?



Many factors contribute to the making of a strong local chapter of TSA. Among these are a motivated membership, an interested instructor/ advisor, a cooperative team of chapter officers, and the endorsement of the school administration. The most important factors, however, are the teamwork and interest of the members, and their determination to make their chapter outstanding.

The following steps are guidelines for technology teachers and students interested in starting a TSA chapter. They should be modified as necessary to fit the needs of your particular school and students.



Steps for Starting A TSA Chapter

1. Become familiar with TSA's goals and purposes, organization materials, publications and brochures, all of which are available from National TSA and/or at www.tsaweb.org.
2. Contact your TSA state advisor, state or national elected officers, and national TSA for information and assistance. (A list of TSA state advisors can be found at www.tsaweb.org.)
3. Visit local TSA chapters for ideas, suggestions and help in getting your chapter started.
4. Interest school administrators in the value of organizing a TSA chapter and determine school procedures and policies for establishing a curriculum-related student organization.
5. Announce to all eligible students (those taking or who have taken a technology class) that a general meeting will be held for the purpose of forming a TSA chapter. At that meeting, create a small committee of students willing to work on initial organization planning (i.e., chapter constitution and bylaws).
6. Elect or appoint temporary chapter officers to conduct the business of the chapter and to help with a membership drive.
7. Following an election, instruct officers of their responsibilities.
8. Choose several (3-5) competitive events for the chapter to work on during the year. The advisor may want to have members vote for the events they are interested in, or the advisor may choose based on the curriculum.
9. Decide on a regular meeting schedule and plan a calendar of activities for the semester and year. Include time to work on events, social activities, a service project and fund raising.
10. Make plans to attend local technology competitions, the state TSA conference and/or the national TSA conference.
11. Affiliate online at www.tsaweb.org (state and national dues are calculated automatically) and pay using a purchase order number or credit card.

Getting Started with Organizational Meetings

The first few meetings of a prospective, then newly formed TSA chapter, create the foundation for an invaluable student experience. Here is a suggested itinerary for your first meeting.

FIRST GENERAL MEETING

Explain to the students the benefits and goals of TSA and how they relate to the student. TSA provides a means for:

- Learning leadership and responsibility
- Meeting with business/industry people on a professional level
- Learning more about our industrial-technological society
- Becoming acquainted with career opportunities
- Focusing on individual and chapter accomplishments
- Being involved in local, state, and national membership

Discuss the history and development of TSA:

- Size of TSA
- Scope of TSA
- Facts about TSA
- TSA's purposes and goals

Allow students to ask questions about TSA:

- Membership
- Dues
- Reasons for joining
- National TSA

A student committee should be formed to:

- Research school procedures for establishing a student organization
- Develop a constitution and bylaws and prepare them for approval