

ADWISE

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The Power of National Leadership Experiences

Exploring student leadership development

THE **WHOLE WORLD** IN **THEIR HANDS**

Student members of NHS, NJHS, and NASC band together to effect global change





How is your school celebrating?

APRIL 16–22, 2017

NATIONAL STUDENT LEADERSHIP WEEK

MAKING A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE



nhs.us/nslw | njhs.us/nslw | nasc.us/nslw

National Student Leadership Week, along with NHS, NJHS, and NASC, is a program of NASSP



ADWISE

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“I would hope that from this initiative, students are able to build empathy and understanding and also, begin a lifetime of giving back and improving their communities.”

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Participation Station

This edition of Participation Station is all about student leadership—now and in the future. Find it in the centerfold and share it with your students!

The college and scholarship application process can stir fear in the most confident college-seekers. Now, there's help. PAGE 20

Discover why “out of the classroom” leadership is pivotal to student development. PAGE 24





From the Directors

We are so excited about the work of chapters and councils related to the NASSP Student Leadership Initiative: Global Citizenship. Your student leaders, with your guidance and support, continue to demonstrate their understanding and responsiveness to the initiative's five strands—equity, civic engagement, positive social change, empathetic action, and awareness/perspectives. It is because of these efforts that we witness their impact across the country and around the world.

Earlier this academic year when we surveyed advisers about the definition of global citizenship, the concept of “common good” or “public good” was mentioned frequently.

Both “common good” and “public good” are included in an article published by Harvard University's Graduate School of Education, “Turning the Tide: Inspiring Concern for Others and the Common Good Through College Admissions.” In this article, educators discuss the importance of students participating in experiences that will support their ethical and intellectual engagement. The contributors of the article remind us that moments when students are engaged in work for the public good articulate students' commitment and impact, not only during the middle level or high school years, but throughout their educational journey.

As you prepare to close out your academic year, we encourage you to discuss the idea of servant leadership and public good with your students.

Jonathan D. Mathis, PhD
Director of National Honor Societies

Ann Postlewaite
Director of Student Programs

ADVISE

A PUBLICATION OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SECONDARY SCHOOL PRINCIPALS

EXTRA CREDIT

Who is your personal hero?

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I must acknowledge the style and grace with which Michelle Obama accepted the mantle of first lady and executed the duties of that office. Her commitment to her family, children, and healthy lifestyles is a legacy that cannot be measured.

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Although I have many, I point to my elementary school teachers and principal, Mrs. Linda Jackson-Chalmers: “Dream It, Believe It, and Do It, Too.”



My hero is my dad. He's the youngest of 10 children, graduated high school at 16, and was the first in his family to go to college.

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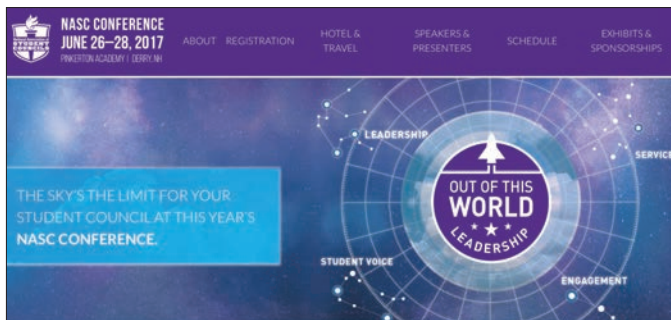
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I'd say my wife—she inspires me to be a better person.

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CHAT ROOM



SPRING SHARES



The National Association of Student Councils (NASC) National Conference—this year held at Pinkerton Academy in Derry, NH—is a unique opportunity for student council members and advisers to meet with their peers and enhance their leadership skills. The conference will bring together more than 1,000 student leaders and advisers from across the country for an inspirational three-day event, June 26–28, 2017. NASC-member schools receive special discounts to attend. Follow #NASConf17 and go to www.nasconference.org to register!



Have you been keeping up with @nhs_njhs on Twitter and Instagram? If so, chances are that you've seen quite a few tweets and posts with #StudentsWhoLead. We use the hashtag at our State Summit. You'll also see the hashtag used for stories about students who go above and beyond to lead others. Be on the lookout for #StudentsWhoLead during upcoming conferences for examples of inspiring students!

Get ready: National Student Leadership Week is almost here! During the week of April 16, student leaders will take to social media and share how they're "Making a World of Difference" using #NSLW17. You can join in by sharing projects that demonstrate the positive impact of your students' leadership on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. Your chapter or council can also take part in our "Tasty"-style video challenge on Instagram to show us how they're making a difference and using their leadership skills. Be part of the showcase. Post using #NSLW17 all April long.



National Library Week is April 9–15, 2017. Use this unique opportunity to inspire a love of learning and reading in your student members. It's the perfect time to show appreciation for your school's librarians and to share photos of library events!

Have you heard about the NASSP Student Leadership Initiative #MakingGlobalChange Instagram contest? We've already recognized many winners, and we're still going! All you have to do is post a photo on Instagram using #MakingGlobalChange, and you'll be entered to win a \$100 donation to a charity of your chapter's or council's choice!



Keep Chatting

If you like this page, be sure to follow, like, and share with us on social media, too! For real-time updates, check out these channels:



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MORNING ANNOUNCEMENTS



CELEBRATING ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS NATIONWIDE

The National Association of Secondary School Principals—parent organization of NASC, NHS, and NJHS—in partnership with the National Association of Elementary School Principals and the American Federation of School Administrators, has declared April 10–14 as National Assistant Principals Week. The week honors and recognizes the contributions of assistant principals to the success of students and schools in the United States. Make sure you play an active role in this important week by planning activities, sending e-cards, and telling your assistant principal just how much he or she means to your school. For ideas, visit www.nassp.org/apweek.

Making a World of Difference



Are you ready to celebrate your student leaders? National Student Leadership Week (NSLW) is April 16–22 and it is dedicated to recognizing and supporting the important role of student leaders. Each year, councils and chapters use this week to show how student leadership can positively impact schools and communities. This year's theme, "Making a World of Difference," gives students the perfect opportunity to show how one local action or project can change the world. It also ties in with the NASSP Student Leadership Initiative: Global Citizenship.

Students can enter our "Tasty"-style how-to video challenge to show us how they're making global change using #NSLW17 and #MakingGlobalChange on Instagram. Be sure to pull out the centerfold insert, Participation Station, to share with your students. Information about NSLW and the video challenge is included there. Also, visit www.nasc.us/nslw, www.nhs.us/nslw, or www.njhs.us/nslw for shareable social media posts, suggested activities, and outreach resources.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

The NASSP office wants to learn about your chapter's or council's accomplishments from this school year. Each spring, we ask you to share statistics about your activities through our annual adviser survey. With more than 33,000 NHS and NJHS chapters and NASC councils combined, the collective wisdom of advisers offers us important insight. It also substantiates—through compelling statistics—the significant difference student members make in the lives of their school communities through service projects and leadership activities. You will be notified when a link to the survey is available. Please set aside some time to complete the survey.



NEW NASC PROGRAMS AND SERVICES COMING—STAY TUNED!

NASC wants to ensure that student council advisers and student leaders are getting the most from its programs and resources. In support of this goal, NASC has conducted extensive research to better understand what advisers need and value.

We will be adding new features and enhancing existing resources for the 2017–18 school year with no increase in affiliation fees. For example, new advisers will be able to jump-start their councils with a toolkit created specifically for them. All NASC advisers will find new options in a more robust online Adviser Resource Center. The ever-popular National Student Project Database will be streamlined for easier use. In addition, advisers and student leaders will have the opportunity to tune in to a first-ever leadership webinar series.

Ultimately, NASC aims to support you with your council management and training by providing resources that deepen your students' engagement and development as leaders. Be on the lookout for upcoming announcements about these new features as we work to make your NASC affiliation more valuable for advisers, students, and schools!



Dates to Remember

April

Advisers and principals notified about affiliation renewal
NHS/NJHS Outstanding Service Project Award winners notified
NJHS Outstanding Achievement Award winners notified
NHS/NJHS Rynearson National Advisers of the Year winners notified

April 10–14: National Assistant Principals Week

April 15: Kyker State Association Service Project Award program application deadline

April 16–22: National Student Leadership Week and announcement of National Councils of Excellence

April 19: NHS/NJHS college admission planning webinar: “First Steps in Your College Search”

May

NHS Scholarship winners notified

May 25: Virtual College Fair

June

Kyker State Service Project Award winner(s) notified
Warren E. Shull NASC Adviser of the Year Award winner announced at the NASC National Conference

June 26–28: NASC National Conference, Pinkerton Academy, Derry, NH

June 30: National affiliation renewals due



URGE YOUR STUDENTS TO ATTEND THE SPRING VIRTUAL COLLEGE FAIR

Encourage your students to register for the virtual college fair, taking place on Thursday, May 25, 2017. Building on the success of the NHS virtual college fair during the spring and fall of 2016, this event invites participation by any grade 9–12 students and their parents. The fair is designed to support increased access to and success in college. Attendees can use their computer, tablet, or smartphone to become acquainted with—or narrow down—colleges and universities on their wish list. Attendees from around the country will be able to chat live with admissions counselors representing participating colleges and universities. Even graduating seniors on their way to college will benefit from resources provided at the fair to promote a successful transition to college and beyond. Advisers and counselors of affiliated schools are encouraged to register as well. To learn more about participating schools or registration, visit www.nasspvirtualcollegefair.com. For more information, read the centerfold insert, Participation Station, which you can pull out of this issue and post for your students to enjoy.



THE SKY IS THE LIMIT

Take advantage of the early-bird member rate and save when you register for this year’s NASC National Conference. The early-bird registration deadline is April 14, 2017. Held in partnership with Pinkerton Academy, located in Derry, NH (about one hour from Boston), the NASC National Conference will bring together more than 1,000 student leaders from across the country for an inspirational three-day event. From June 26–28, 2017, student council members and advisers will meet with their peers to enhance their leadership skills. This year’s theme, Out of This World Leadership, will include sessions from speakers and trainers that address issues specific to middle level and high school students.

“When you reach the end of your rope,
tie a knot in it and hang on.”

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT

NASC UPDATE



Develop Real-World Skills Through the Distinguished Student Leader Program



By participating in student council, students have a leg up on their peers—but the NASC Distinguished Student Leader Program can take this advantage to a whole new level.

This rigorous skills-based program offers the highest level of national student recognition bestowed by NASC. At Lancaster High School in New York, the Leadership Academy incorporates this program into its curriculum—something the school deemed necessary when they realized students were lacking in practical skills, such as writing a professional email, talking on the phone, or addressing an envelope.

Mark Skowron, coordinator of student affairs and co-director of the Leadership Academy at Lancaster, appreciated the program's ready-made, high-level curriculum and how it fit with the skills the school was trying to teach. He says that often the program pays off enormously once students are in college or part of the professional world. To date, 104 Lancaster students have earned the prestigious recognition.

You don't need a structured leadership class in place to make this program work. In fact, students don't even need to complete the program to take advantage of its lessons. If your students are interested in completing the process, study these program basics, along with tips for guiding students along the way.

Who can apply and what does it cost?

Students in grades 9–12 who are in student council, enrolled in a leadership class, or serve in a leadership role with another school club or team may apply. (The school's NASC affiliation must be current.) It is free to students.

Where can students find an application?

An application and related materials may be downloaded from www.nasc.us via the Distinguished Student Leaders menu item.

When is the application deadline?

There is no annual deadline—applications may be submitted as they are completed. It may take up to four weeks for NASC to notify students of the

results, so applicants should plan accordingly if they wish to include the distinction on college/scholarship applications.

What criteria does NASC consider?

Students must complete numerous tasks focused on building leadership knowledge and skills, write an essay, create a leadership portfolio, and get two letters of recommendation—one from their adviser and one from the principal or other administrator.

How much time does it take to complete the required work?

Often it takes at least one or two semesters. For younger students, the process may be longer. At Lancaster, students start as sophomores and finish by June of their junior year so certificates are received in time for the college admissions process.

How much work is required of advisers?

Advisers review applications and write letters of recommendation. "It's really on the student to do," Skowron says. "As teachers, we read over their answers, but we don't sit there and hold their hand and do it for them. ... You're probably doing 90 percent of these things already."

What do students receive as an NASC Distinguished Student Leader?

Students get an official letter and certificate from NASC and NASSP, along with a sample press release for local media. Exclusive personal insignia items are available for order.

What happens if a student doesn't meet all of the criteria?

Students can reapply after a six-month period, during which they can strengthen areas of weakness or gather missing evidence. •



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HONOR SOCIETY UPDATE



Your New Friend in the Digital Age— the Adviser Online Community



Most people welcome the opportunity to be part of a community. It's typically a source of comfort, camaraderie, and shared experiences.

Moreover, the experience of the Honor Society adviser is quite unique. In fact, no one understands the challenges—and victories—you encounter as an Honor Society adviser better than your peers.

The new NHS/NJHS Adviser Online Community provides an opportunity for you to connect with those who can best relate to your experiences. Visit this moderated community so you can query, collaborate, and get feedback. Simply put, consider it your own hub to ask questions and get answers.

To acquaint you with this new digital companion, we'd like to walk you through some basics as well as some community do's and don'ts.

Getting There

To enter the community, log in to the NHS or NJHS Adviser Resource Center (www.nhs.us/arc or www.njhs.us/arc) and click on the "Collaborate with Peers" pane. You can also access the community directly at <http://community.nassp.org>. (If you need help with your login credentials, contact advisercommunity@nassp.org.)

Observing Good Netiquette

As you prepare to be part of the community, keep the following in mind: As with any community, there are guidelines to ensure the experience is enjoyable, beneficial, and productive for all users. The guidelines are based on common sense, as well as basic courtesy and respect.

An *engaged* community will help to make the experience as useful as possible for all participants. So, be prepared to contribute—in the form of a question or response—and not just lurk. In fact, as the community evolves, there will be digital badges to designate various levels of participation. Aim to become a power user.

Do's

- Post with purpose—to inspire, enable, or share with fellow users.
- Respect that other people have different points of view and experiences.
- Welcome newcomers and encourage their participation.

Give feedback in a helpful, constructive manner.

Lead by example by adding content you think will be useful.

Report problems or use the flag function to alert community leaders about abuse.

Use common sense when seeking advice, especially regarding health, safety, or legal matters.

Be safe and smart when sharing personal information.

Don'ts

Post content that is derogatory or discriminatory. Rich debate is desirable, but postings must not be offensive, humiliating, or intimidating.

Create content that would be considered "adult" in nature.

Defame, harass, or hold grudges. You'll be able to better participate if you don't have a chip on your shoulder.

Post personal details or private information about yourself, your students, or others.

Advertise commercial products or services. Commercial solicitation is prohibited.

Use foul language. While there won't be a virtual swear jar, keep your discussions and vocabulary in good taste, and consider others in the community.

Post using all capital letters. It's the virtual equivalent of shouting.

The National Association of Secondary School Principals, parent organization of NHS and NJHS, reserves the right to reject content from any user.

The community will be open all year long, so jump on now and throughout the coming summer months to engage with fellow advisers. Enjoy the journey as you blaze a new digital trail. •



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THE **WHOLE WORLD** IN **THEIR HANDS**

Student members of NHS, NJHS, and NASC band together to effect global change

BY TERRY LOWE-EDWARDS

When you think about the size of the entire globe, it might seem like a pretty vast piece of real estate. But if you ask thousands of students to consider how to seize one portion of it to claim as their own in order to change something for the common good, its size—and the endeavor—becomes much more manageable.

That's exactly what's happening now, as student members of NASC, NHS, NJHS, and the National Elementary Honor Society (NEHS) have banded together for a colossal student leadership initiative that runs through 2018.

With a focus on global citizenship, the initiative is the brainchild of National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP) leadership and the NASSP Student Leadership Advisory Committee. This committee was created to develop ideas to enhance programs and services as well as to increase council and chapter engagement. NASSP is the parent organization of NHS, NJHS, and NASC, and it administers the National Elementary Honor Society in partnership with the NAESP Foundation.

This effort represents the first time these organizations have united in such a profound way with an initiative that aims to encourage all students to think globally and act locally.



GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP

STUDENTS CHANGING THE WORLD TOGETHER

DIVING IN—TOOLS TO HELP YOUR CHAPTER OR COUNCIL BECOME GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP CHAMPIONS

NASSP Student Leadership Initiative on Global Citizenship website

This site offers a gateway to project ideas through the National Student Project Database, opportunities for students to commit to leadership roles, and blog posts about global citizenship efforts.

www.makingglobalchange.org

Official hashtag

#MakingGlobalChange

Project ideas

Examples of global citizenship projects can be found in the National Student Project Database by selecting “global citizenship” using the advanced search tool:

www.nasc.us/projects

www.nhs.us/projects

www.njhs.us/projects

www.makingglobalchange.org/get-ideas

Resource directories of service and leadership organizations

www.nhs.us/resource-directories

www.njhs.us/resource-directories

Support resources

Explanation of SMART goals, a service hours tracking form template, and a project planning document—“Project Planning & Fundraising” section of NHS and NJHS Adviser Resource Centers: www.nhs.us/project-planning or www.njhs.us/project-planning.

“Projects—Plan, Implement, Evaluate” (Chapter 11 of *NASC Student Council Handbook*): www.nasc.us/council-management.

Approximately 33,000 schools are affiliated with these organizations, and more than 1 million students are members of an NHS chapter or NASC student council. Thus, the initiative’s impact has the potential to be extraordinarily significant.

In November 2016, with all the fanfare of a giant party—think confetti and balloons—the initiative kicked off at a Leadership Experience and Development (LEAD) Conference of student leaders and advisers in Denver, CO. During a Facebook Live event, hundreds of student leaders and advisers watched a giant screen showcasing real-time social media posts celebrating expressions of #MakingGlobalChange as the initiative’s official website, www.makingglobalchange.org, was unveiled.

DEFINING THE GOAL

For purposes of this initiative, global citizenship is defined as “a demonstrated awareness of, concern for, and involvement in the well-being and success of others beyond one’s immediate community, extending into the nation and the world.”

The initiative embraces five strands, and project examples have been shared to illustrate successful achievement:

Equity

Projects that engage or improve relations with varied and underserved populations.

Examples: Special Olympics, No Name-Calling Week, Best Buddies

Civic Engagement

Projects that raise awareness or engage in civic-based activities.

Examples: mock elections, voter registration drives, mayor for a day

Positive Social Change

Projects that raise awareness of or engage others in activities addressing identified social issues in the school and community.

Examples: drunk driving awareness, Random Acts of Kindness Week, culture fairs

Empathetic Actions and Wellness

Projects that assist people in need or crisis, or improve the environment.

Examples: clothing/food drives, care packages for vets/homeless, donations or drives for children's hospitals

Awareness/Perspectives

Projects that raise awareness and perspectives or promote meaningful dialogue on identified school and community issues.

Examples: antibullying/smoking/drugs, blood drives, pause before you post

THE INITIATIVE'S GENESIS

One thing to note about this campaign is that it is not only *for* students, but it is *by* students. Eight students sit on NASSP's 15-member Student Leadership Advisory Committee, along with three principals, three advisers, and an NASSP board liaison. These individuals were among the decision makers at the table when the idea of a national initiative was proposed.



This is one of hundreds of LEAD Conference attendees who signed a giant banner to pledge to make global change.

"Student voice is more powerful than ever because technology has made the world more connected," explains Beverly Hutton, NASSP's deputy executive director, who proposed the idea of undertaking an initiative to the committee. "Honor Society and NASC students are the next



INSPIRE GREAT CITIZENSHIP

The American Citizenship Award

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Photo by Dynamix Digital

What's in a name? A pledge of support. Hundreds at LEAD Denver sign the initiative's kickoff banner to show their commitment to making global change.

generation of leaders," she notes. "Sparking and encouraging their social consciousness and civic engagement will result in a more inclusive global society, a more educated citizenry, and a more informed American voter."

With regard to the initiative's focus, Ann Postlewaite, NASSP's director of student programs, explains, "The committee members believed the issue of global citizenship to be of significant importance when looking to change the climate and culture in schools. The theme's five strands, they said, are critical issues for schools and students today."

NASC student representative Kendall Haase from Bastrop, TX, says, "The initiative's theme is especially relevant now because technology plays a huge role in global citizenship. The internet and social media give students the opportunity to connect with people around the world. This initiative will help ensure kids are using that power to enact positive change."

This year's National Student Leadership Week theme, "Making a World of Difference," is meant to amplify the initiative's message further. The week, being celebrated April 16–22, 2017, represents

an annual salute to student leadership. During the week, councils and chapters are encouraged to recognize their student leaders and plan special projects based on the theme to show how student leaders are positively impacting their schools and communities.

GETTING INVOLVED IN THE INITIATIVE

Project Implementation

This initiative relies heavily on students joining together to conceptualize and implement a project or activity that demonstrates how they are making global change based on one or more of the initiative's strands.

The National Student Project Database—accessed through the NASC, NHS, NJHS, NEHS, or the initiative's website—provides students and school representatives with thousands of project and activity ideas completed by Honor Society chapters and NASC councils. While any school may participate in this initiative, only schools affiliated with NASC, NHS, NJHS, or NEHS enjoy full access to the database's contents. The database can also sort entries that have been tagged as a "global citizenship" activity.

Student Leadership Opportunities

Do you know a student who has a large following on his or her own YouTube channel or other social media platform? Is one of your student members a great writer? Then the initiative needs their talents!

Students are invited to promote the initiative as "global change ambassadors." By publicizing the effort among friends and classmates in creative and impactful ways, students can earn a certificate and digital badge. For example, students who have an experience to share about an initiative-related project they've undertaken can contribute a blog post to be published on the initiative website. Advisers are also welcome to contribute to the blog.

To become a global change ambassador, advisers are asked to encourage their students to visit the "Get Involved" section of www.makingglobalchange.org, where they can complete a brief form and submit a photo of themselves.

A Chance to Give Back

The initiative also offers chapters and councils an opportunity to pay it forward through an Instagram contest running through December 2017. Each month, one Instagram post with #MakingGlobalChange illustrating how an individual or group is demonstrating global citizenship will be chosen to win \$100 for a charity of choice. The prize will be awarded in the name of the chapter or council the individual represents.

EYEING THE FUTURE

Service is one of the hallmarks of each of these student organizations. Involvement with the initiative gives students—especially those in the elementary and middle levels—a glimpse into Honor Society and student leadership opportunities that await them throughout their academic lives.

The big picture underscores the importance of membership in an Honor Society or student council relative to the overall student experience.

“The data collected through this initiative will shed light on understanding student empowerment, leadership development, as well as the impact of NASSP student programs on learning environments and surrounding communities,” says Jonathan D. Mathis, director of the National Honor Societies. “The data will further help to inform stakeholders of the power, insight, and commitment of our student leaders.”

Committee Member/Adviser Felix Yerace from South Fayette High School in McDonald, PA, says, “I would hope that from this initiative, students are able to build empathy and understanding and also, begin a lifetime of giving back and improving their communities.”

Stephen Phraner from Athens, AL, an NHS student member and committee representative, offers this perspective, “I would love to see more servanthood in my generation as a result of this initiative. The topic of global citizenship can actually make a tangible difference in our society.” •



Terry Lowe-Edwards is a senior copywriter with **mdg**, a full-service marketing agency specializing in solutions for association and event clients.

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Success



Our future depends on today's students and their ability to guide peers to success while being at the helm of their own destiny. Through leadership and empowerment programs like LEAD Conferences and State Summits, the National Honor Society (NHS) and National Junior Honor Society (NJHS) provide unique tools for educators committed to helping shape the lives of student members today who will lead us tomorrow.

“ State Summits engage and educate NHS members, allowing for collaboration as well as in-depth learning to prepare for their future college endeavors. Students who attend are not just listening—they're doing. ”

—Melba Acantilado, NHS adviser, Bernalillo High School, Bernalillo, NM



NASSP
National Association
of Secondary School Principals
NHS and NJHS are programs of NASSP

**START OR RENEW YOUR CHAPTER TODAY.
VISIT NHS.US OR NJHS.US NOW.**

ADVISERS: Tear out this special student section and pass it on to your members!



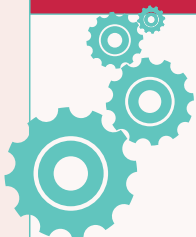
PARTICIPATION STATION

Students, this one's for you!

This issue of Participation Station is all about you and your leadership—now and in the future. What kind of leader are you? How will you grow as a leader? And how will you reach beyond yourself to extend your leadership, recognizing the global nature of our society today? In other words, have you considered something you could do that has a wide reach—something that has impact across the nation and the world?

In April, we celebrate National Student Leadership Week, and this year's theme ties with the NASSP Student Leadership Initiative: Global Citizenship. Scan these pages of Participation Station for a wide variety of ways you can strengthen your leadership—as a student and as a citizen. Be sure to share your goals and successes throughout the year using #MakingGlobalChange on social media and visit www.makingglobalchange.org for ideas today!

TOOLS FOR STUDENT LEADERS



Your leadership organizations are packed with information and opportunities on ways to lead during and after middle and high school. Check out the National Association of Student Councils Distinguished Students Leaders Program (www.nasc.us/distinguished) and the student section of the National Honor Society and National Junior Honor Society websites (www.nhs.us/students and www.njhs.us/students) to get the most out of your membership.

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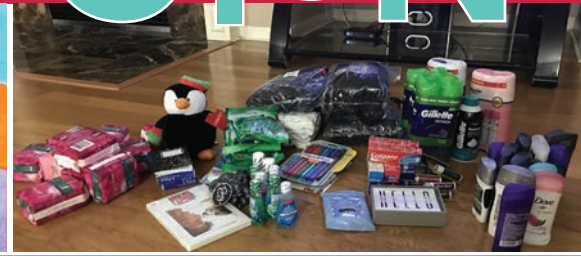
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PROJECTS IN ACTION



OPERATION GRATITUDE

When NHS officers at Cypress Falls High School in Houston, TX, were trying to decide on a project, they knew that they wanted to do something that would have a profound effect on not only the people who resided in their community, but on people around the world. Operation Gratitude was the perfect solution to do just that. The project focused on giving back to those involved in the military by providing much-needed resources to soldiers, veterans, and their families. First, NHS members organized a card-making event where returning and newly inducted members spent an afternoon designing and decorating a plethora of cards—Thank You, Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, Happy Kwanzaa, etc.—to remind our soldiers that they're appreciated and in our thoughts during a time that would normally be spent with their families. In total, the members made 165 beautiful, unique cards.

Along with the card-making event, NHS members held an ongoing donation drive throughout the semester. They managed to collect

four sticks of deodorant, one pack of stationary, one pack of makeup removing wipes, five tubes of Chapstick, eight tubes of toothpaste, 11 bottles of shaving cream, 29 pairs of socks, four bags of flossers, one container of floss, 15 pens, one pair of gloves, one DVD, eight composition books, eight bottles of mouthwash, one stuffed animal, and 10 packages of sanitary napkins! The cards and donated goods were then made into care packages that were distributed to veterans, soldiers, and their families. Operation Gratitude is just one of many ways NHS, NJHS, and NASC members are #MakingGlobalChange. A project like this fulfills the NASSP student leadership initiative on global citizenship's strand on empathetic actions and wellness. What can you do to make a difference?

SHOW OF HANDS



Recently, the National Association of Secondary School Principals, parent organization of NASC, NHS, and NJHS, kicked off a two-year student leadership initiative on global citizenship. We recently polled students on Twitter related to the effort.

What have you done to be part of our global citizenship initiative?

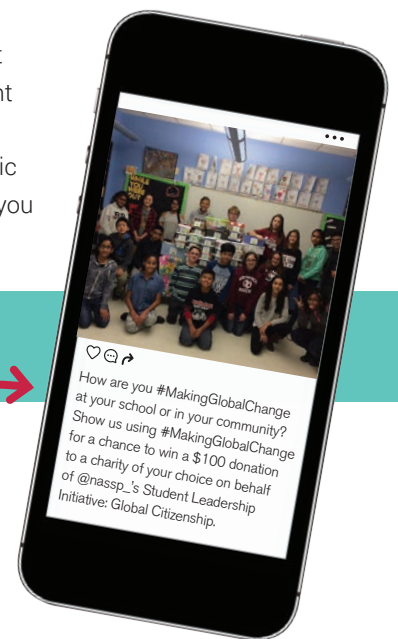
	NHS	NASC
Donated food	23%	13%
Donated clothing	19%	13%
Fundraising	12%	10%
Multiple/All of the above	46%	64%
	26 votes	31 votes

We love seeing that you've taken part in our Global Citizenship Initiative! So, have you participated in our #MakingGlobalChange Instagram contest?

	NHS	NASC
Yes!	--	12%
Not yet, but we will!	50%	12%
What contest?	50%	76%
	6 votes	26 votes

Do you believe your chapter's/council's activities are #MakingGlobalChange?

	NHS	NASC
Yes, I do!	37%	33%
Maybe a little	32%	14%
Not global, but local	31%	53%
	19 votes	43 votes



This Instagram contest

YOUR FUTURE IS BRIGHT

We're Making Your College Search Easier

Did you know you could “visit” dozens of college and university representatives from across the country in a single day ... and never set foot outside your home or school? Participate in the Virtual College Fair, coming Thursday, May 25! It's open to all students in grades 9 through 12.

On that date, hop on to your smartphone, tablet, laptop, or desktop computer and log in to chat with reps from colleges and universities from coast to coast. There will also be virtual workshops and videos throughout the event. The fair takes place between 2:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m. (ET)/11:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. (PT) on May 25. It's a great way to build—or narrow down—your college wish list and not break the bank traveling to multiple locations.

As you prepare to participate—or even as you get ready to make an in-person visit to a school—consider asking admission representatives these questions as you research your college options:

What programs does your school offer?

You may have a major in mind—you may not. Either way, will your academic or career interests, no matter how firmly they are defined, be well served by the school? And there are programs beyond academic majors. For example, many schools boast robust study abroad and internship programs. These may be important considerations for you.

What is the average financial aid package?

Consider this figure alongside the cost of tuition to help you determine whether this school might be affordable for you.

What happens when your students graduate?

How quickly do graduates land jobs? Where do they get jobs? How many go on to grad school—and where do they go? The answers may offer important clues for you.

What's the culture of your school?

How comfortable will you be in the environment? How many clubs and organizations are there? Do students leave on the weekends? An empty campus on the weekend might be a sign of a lackluster campus life—which may or may not be of concern.

The Virtual College Fair is **free**, so take advantage of this opportunity to discover new options in your college search. Visit www.nasspvirtualcollegefair.com for more information or to register.





YOUR NATIONAL STUDENT LEADERSHIP WEEK CHECKLIST FOR SUCCESS

National Student Leadership Week is just around the corner. April 16–22 is the time for councils and chapters to celebrate the student leaders in your schools, all while using the annual theme to demonstrate leadership. We want to help you get ready for National Student Leadership Week, so we created this checklist to help you get prepared!

Make sure teachers, principals, and students around your school know when NSLW 2017 is. (Use the poster we provide at www.nasc.us/nslw, www.nhs.us/nslw, or www.njhs.us/nslw.)

Prepare a newspaper column to share all the great things student leaders are doing in your school.

Consider sending a press release to your local media about NSLW. Use the sample we provide at www.nhs.us/nslw, www.njhs.us/nslw, or www.nasc.us/nslw.

Become familiar with the 2017 theme—Making a World of Difference—and think about how your council or chapter can do a project to illustrate it.

Get ready to show us what you’re doing using #NSLW17 on social media.

Read up on our “Tasty”-style video contest. (See below for more details.)

Stage an assembly to recognize your student leaders.

Plan activities that incorporate your entire student body.

MAKING GLOBAL CHANGE VIDEO CHALLENGE

Enter our Making Global Change “Tasty”-style video challenge! As NHS, NJHS, and NASC members, we want you to reflect on your favorite cause or one that you would like to get involved in.

Visualize what you want your end result to be and think of that as your “entree.” Those are your “ingredients!” What people, places, and things will go into your “recipe” to make global change?

Here’s an example: If your “entree” (think: result) is to donate blankets to the homeless, you would add one group of NHS students, plus 18 pieces of fleece, plus 9 pairs of scissors, plus 2 cups of kindness, and you get warmth for the homeless in your community.

You don’t have to do this alone! Get a group of friends together to create the video. It doesn’t have to be fancy; you can use a series of drawings and put them into iMovie or check out free movie-making apps like Animoto.

Please visit www.nhs.us/nslw, www.njhs.us/nslw, or www.nasc.us/nslw to see a sample video we whipped up. We can’t wait to see the “recipes” you create and share!

1 group of NHS students

+ 18 pieces of fleece

+ 9 pairs of scissors

+ 2 cups of kindness

= 9 blankets to donate to a local shelter

NEW ONLINE PURCHASE ORDER PROCESS

Please review our stores' new purchase process below. Following it will ensure an error-free and timely receipt of your order.





The college and scholarship application process can stir fear in the most confident college-seekers. Now, there's help. Share this important advice with your students.



HELPING STUDENTS APPLY THEMSELVES

College application essay-writing tips straight from the experts

BY TERRY LOWE-EDWARDS

National Honor Society (NHS) and student council advisers have unique insight into a distinct group of college-bound students—the ones who typically model exceptional scholarship and leadership. Consequently, as an adviser, you are often on the front lines—right along with parents and family members—when it comes to supporting the most high-caliber students in their college application journey. You wouldn't think this group of students would experience anxiety when it comes to completing a college application, but it may be their high-achieving tendencies that cause them to get so stressed.

To help students prepare for various aspects of the college application process, NHS launched a virtual college application essay-writing workshop series this school year. The workshops are highly interactive sessions with writing prompts. Sessions could be viewed live or on demand, and all workshops have been recorded and are now available for viewing by any NHS member. (Your members will need your school affiliation number when they sign on, so be sure to make the number available to them.)

Several workshop presenters offered advice, so we've summarized their recommendations. Their insight is universal and serves as guidance for *any* student completing an application. Share this sage advice with your students.

DISPELLING PANIC

Crystal Newby, who hosted the "Perfecting the Personal Statement" workshop, explains in her presentation to students, "I *really* have been in your shoes. I went through the college search process and experienced the anxiety of preparing for the SAT and filling out college applications. I remember the nervousness of waiting to get back my test scores and waiting to hear if I had been accepted."

Her expertise comes from a unique vantage point. "I used to be an admissions counselor and had the pleasure of reading thousands of applications during my tenure," says Newby, who is now assistant director of education and training for the National Association for College Admission Counseling.

When it comes to the application itself, she says, some admissions representatives take a holistic approach. “It means that they look at the whole picture. In addition to looking at grades, class rank, and test scores, schools that take a holistic approach might also look at letters of recommendation, extracurricular activities, and an essay or personal statement,” she says.

For some, she says, the essay sparks “a moment of panic while students rummage through their brain figuring out exactly what to say. How much should you share? Should you tell them how many siblings you have? Your favorite color? Your favorite food? The name of your first pet? This moment of panic is sometimes evident when students are asked to write a personal statement as a part of a college application.

“It can be difficult to talk about yourself, showcase your strengths, and basically convince someone why you’re the best fit as a member of the incoming freshmen class,” Newby says. During her workshop, she shared a few activities to help students.

The Life Map

“Draw your life map. It’s a pretty simple concept where you put yourself in the middle and link to the people, places, and things that are most important to you.”

Once you’ve drawn your map, she recommends that you “ask your family and friends to share their perspectives of you. Send

a text or pick up the phone. Ask them for the first five words that come to mind when they think of you. Looking for outside perspectives is a great way to see just how awesome you are!”

Consider using pictures for inspiration. “With social media being so popular, we pretty much document everything in our lives,” she says. “Pictures are a great way to remember significant events in your life and that can translate to a personal statement topic.”

AVOIDING COMMON PITFALLS

In a workshop session called “Discover Your Voice,” Marilyn G.S. Emerson, a certified educational planner, recommended 10 things students should avoid in their writing.

1. DON'T be boring.

A great essay should paint a picture of a special moment. Rather than giving a laundry list of their activities, students should focus on a single story, interaction, or a skill learned.

2. DON'T list honors or awards.

An applicant’s activities list already gives an overview of his or her main accomplishments. Students should use the word count to help the reader get to know them through a story.

3. DON'T write about sensitive topics.

In other words, stay away from politics and religion.

4. DON'T talk about sports.

This one may surprise athletes. Why avoid sports? Well, it’s too predictable. Almost everyone knows that the story will be either the thrill of victory or the agony of defeat. Unless an applicant’s story is truly unique, the topic should be avoided.

5. DON'T try to use humor.

This may come as a surprise, too. But seriously—applicants should not attempt to be funny. If humor comes naturally, that’s great. But don’t force it.

6. DON'T discuss volunteering and trips.

This is one of the most popular essay topics. Since so many students write about it, it can be a boring cliché. Students who do decide to talk about volunteering should pick a single moment in time.

7. DON'T write an anti-essay.

Intentions may be good, but students should stick to the traditional essay format and let their creativity show through the story they choose to tell.

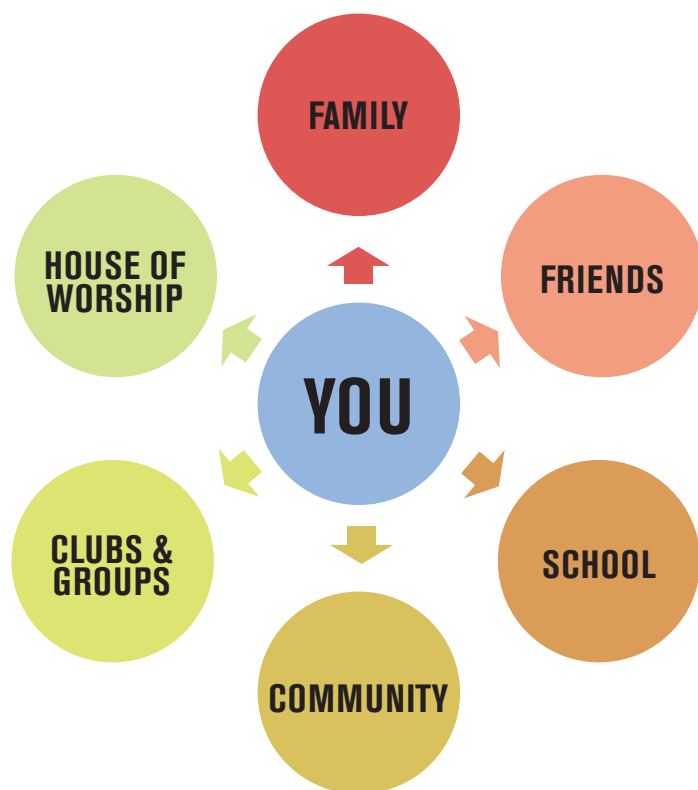
8. DON'T explain bad behavior.

Bad behavior should not be the focus of an essay because it is not the focus of who the applicant is as a person.

9. DON'T blame or credit others.

Students should take responsibility for their

A SAMPLE LIFE MAP



“In addition to looking at grades, class rank, and test scores, schools that take a holistic approach might also look at letters of recommendation, extracurricular activities, and an essay or personal statement.” – CRYSTAL NEWBY

experiences. While a passing mention of a role model or a positive influence can show humility, the essay should focus on the applicant.

10. DON'T talk about tragedies.

Topics like death and divorce are exceptionally difficult to write about. So, if this topic is chosen, applicants should keep the focus on themselves and make sure to address the issue with maturity.

TACKLING SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS AND ESSAYS

Once the college apps are done, many students choose to pursue scholarship options. In the “Sharing Your Story Through Scholarship Application Essays” workshop, Andrea Elzy, an educational leader and curriculum design consultant, offered five tips to help students successfully tackle those applications.

1. Do your homework.

Students must know what scholarships are available. Scholarship options include those earned for academics, sports, and extracurricular/co-curricular activities. Students must discern which scholarships might apply to them based on the scholarship’s terms and their particular attributes.

2. The more applications, the better!

The application process can be tedious, but it can also be fruitful. Students may opt to apply for one large scholarship, but many small scholarships can add up to big dollars. That said, students should not limit their options. They should apply for as many scholarships as they can to maximize their chances of receiving aid.

3. Stay organized.

Many scholarships have very specific requests for information, including transcripts, personal statements, and other materials. Creating a chart can help outline scholarship amounts, GPA requirements, requested materials, important deadlines, etc.

4. Deadlines, deadlines, deadlines.

Students must understand that scholarship deadlines are hard deadlines. If a student fails to submit his or her application on time, it may be rendered void. So, students should avoid submitting an application late after spending a considerable amount of time to complete it.

5. Read, create, and complete a purposeful application essay.

No matter what the scholarship is for—academic merit, sports, or individual attributes—it is critical to completely read the terms of the scholarship and provide all information requested. More than likely, the scholarship application will require an essay. Students should consider the following 10 questions while writing their essay:

Have I outlined the reason(s) why I am qualified for this scholarship based on its terms?

Does my essay answer the questions outlined in the scholarship application?

Am I accurately and honestly painting a picture of myself and my reason for applying?

Does the essay express my need and/or what compelled me to apply for the scholarship?

Does the essay follow all guidelines (formatting, word count, etc.)?

Have I appropriately introduced myself to the application reader?

Does the essay outline and highlight my strengths? (Students want to be sure they are being competitive in their essay.)

Does my essay discuss my intended future academic and professional endeavors? (Remember, scholarship program readers want to know what they are financing. What will the student be studying and how will this scholarship help the student achieve his or her goals?)

Have the application and essay been edited? Are they error-free?

Have I reread the application and essay prior to submission? (This helps to catch any possible errors.)

All workshops are available on demand for members, faculty, and school counselors. Visit www.nhs.us/virtualNHS to watch any session. •



Terry Lowe-Edwards is a senior copywriter with **mdg**, a full-service marketing agency specializing in solutions for association and event clients.

THE POWER OF NATIONAL LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCES

Exploring student leadership development

BY ANDREA ELZY

As National Student Leadership Week approaches, students from across the country likely will be having discussions focused on campus involvement, while advisers and fellow faculty members will likely be having discussions about student engagement, student needs, and methods for best practices in supporting students as they embark on their individual extracurricular journeys.

My journey as a student leader began in college. Now, as an administrator, I often reflect on the myriad activities I was not encouraged to participate in at the secondary level. Opportunities for student involvement and engagement at middle or high school campuses are standard practice; however, opportunities for involvement in national leadership programs, conferences, and summits are just as valuable and prolific, but can often be overlooked. The impact that student conferences and summits make in the lives of participating students can be invaluable, as these programmatic opportunities increase student knowledge, skills and efficacy, and ultimately empower students to remain engaged and involved in their communities and to engage with the larger national and global community.

For the purposes of this piece, I will use the National Association of Secondary School Principals' (NASSP) national programming as an example that demonstrates the importance of national conferences and summit-style programs as alternatives and/or additions to a student's cocurricular schedule.

“OUT OF THE CLASSROOM” LEADERSHIP

The moment I was asked by NASSP to assist in the design, facilitation, and curriculum development for NHS and NJHS State Summits and the LEAD Conferences, I jumped at the chance to be included in what can be described as some of the most unique cocurricular student experiences nationally. Having been an adviser and student affairs practitioner at a postsecondary institution for many years, I often wondered what the “outside of the classroom” leadership experience would look like in this context.

As middle level and high school campuses continue to encourage practices and curriculum conducive to academic and personal achievement, student engagement, diversity, and life skills, it's clear that leadership events can only add to a student's school experiences. Opportunities for students to engage in national leadership work become increasingly salient and serve as valuable experiences for any student wanting to acquire new skills, in a new setting, among new peer groups and experienced leaders.

Participation in NHS, NJHS, NASC, and LEAD Conferences traditionally occurs in a chapter/in-house style structure, which often includes development opportunities for engagement with peers and advisers alike. More recently, and as an added feature, these organizations have taken to the national conference/





summit circuit in an effort to increase student outcomes and engagement in the area of leadership development. More importantly, these conference experiences provide an opportunity for students to engage in a hands-on, well-rounded, impactful curriculum. Conference-style leadership experiences aim to:

Provide new information in the areas of student leadership and academic and personal success.

Students from various middle level schools and high schools who are involved in student leadership programs likely have had exposure to discussions around college access, academic achievement, and personal achievement. Conference opportunities provide additional space for these discussions and bring together individual professionals in areas like college admissions, academic achievement, personal achievement and life skills, and diversity. NASSP student leadership conferences, for example, are intentional in their design and content and are committed to empowering students.

Create and present unique content and curriculum in the area of leadership to harness students' strengths.

Content and curriculum presented at student summits and conferences are often cutting edge and crafted with student engagement at the crux of their purpose. Conferences and summits are constructed by a team of content professionals who work to create an intentional curriculum with special attention to the needs of students at both the middle and high school levels. Facilitators offer various workshops and seminars in an effort to diversify both learning spaces and learning opportunities for students. This also provides students with the opportunity to network with various professionals, faculty, and staff from across different platforms.

Include practices conducive to creating a culture of inquiry.

Many student conference and summit programs create learning and thinking spaces where students are encouraged to think critically, ask questions, and analyze and interpret information—they're essentially tasked with leading. This is a critical component in creating a culture of inquiry and an element that makes many student national conferences and summits unique from other ways of learning.

Include practices that support constructivism and a constructivist teaching lens.

Many of these conference and summit programs create an intentional "think tank"-style space, which utilizes the staff as "guides on the side" as opposed to "sages on the stage." Students are given direction by the facilitating staff but are engaged in active and meaningful discussion, allowing themselves and their peers the latitude to deduce their own meaning, points, and reflections. Instead of directly

guiding students, the facilitator sets a learning atmosphere with maximum opportunity for the students themselves to visualize, articulate, express, explain, interpret, and apply new knowledge. This provides a different learning experience outside of a teen's everyday classroom and encourages student participation. (Keep in mind: Students want to share what they know.) Additionally, many national conferences include opportunities for students to engage in seminars, activities, or presentations of their choice, which encourages them to pursue their personal interests. Allowing space for student agency—and the opportunity to create their own schedule—leads to an increase in student buy-in and engagement.

WHY CONFERENCES MATTER

So, why are student conferences and summits so important? Well, they work. Conferences are a shift from a student's everyday, on-campus experiences. Student leadership conferences and summits bring together students from various schools, school districts, and even various states. The opportunity to bring together talent and young leaders and visionaries across these demographics and mediums is invaluable. Large group events provide a cutting-edge way to address ideas and problems with students from different spaces. Additionally, many student conferences and summits include a travel component, which allows students to experience varying viewpoints, individuals from different cultures, and other nuances related to travel and personal development.

Conferences also meet a direct and palpable need and provide an excellent service in the area of leadership competency training. The objectives of these conference-style events are simple: to provide students with a unique space for learning outside of their respective schools while concurrently developing their skills in various personal, academic, and additional competency areas. Ultimately, students will leave national conferences empowered, knowledgeable, and with new skill sets to take back to their respective communities. Hopefully, they also leave with a new friend from a different school, city, or state. I encourage all advisers, faculty, and administrators working with student groups to take the plunge. There is a world of opportunity for your students at a national conference or summit. I hope to see you at one soon! •



Andrea "Drea" Elzy, MEd, is a doctoral candidate at the Rossier School of Education at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles.

PUT THIS INTO PRACTICE

BY NOAH SPERBER AND CAMILA CARDONA

Engage your chapter or council by participating in this interactive activity

Outreach for Cleft Palate Patients



Objective

National Honor Society (NHS) members worked together in the 2016–17 school year on a partnership with Operation Smile, which helps low-income people overseas in need of surgery for a cleft lip, cleft palate, or other facial deformity undergo surgery at no cost. The organization also helps patients' families and communities.

Materials

- A digital space (such as Google docs) or large craft area for brainstorming
- A sign-up sheet for specific donation items
- Boxes set up around the school for collections
- A volunteer driver to transport donations to the closest Operation Smile location

Estimated Time Required

Three meeting periods, most likely after school, along with extra time for advertising the project, collection of items, and packing to ship.

Procedure

Session #1: In the first meeting, the NHS officers, in collaboration with the other members, should work together to outline the basic plan for the project. During our first meeting, officers asked the members to brainstorm what could be brought for families of patients and how these items could be collected. We asked questions like “What is most necessary for healthy living?” or “How can we make the biggest impact?” and allowed the members to answer freely. We decided that to help the patients most directly, we could collect art supplies for pre-surgery wait times and post-surgery recovery times. We also attempted to expand the project to not only help the patients themselves, but also the families of the patients, and in some cases the community, by collecting and donating toiletries and other necessities. (Many of these communities have multiple people who go through the surgical process in a short period of time.) Even though these procedures are cost-free, there is still planning and stress involved, and our intervention in the community allows the families to enjoy some

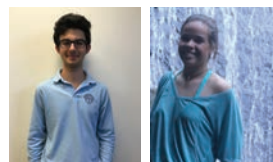
relief from their worries. The efforts of our NHS chapter affected the lives of many in a positive way—which was our ultimate goal.

Session #2: In the second meeting, we assigned members certain items to collect and planned a day at the end of the month as the final collection day. We also used this time to brainstorm how to further help families of the patients. We decided to collect vitamins later in the school year. Other ideas included collecting home toiletry kits and school supplies. We then worked to spread the word and collect the craft supplies, as well as educate people on cleft palates.

Session #3: In the final meeting, we gathered all of the craft supplies and packaged them for shipping to a country in Latin America. We also planned for the future to collect vitamins and outdoor sports equipment (such as bikes and skateboards) for the children of the patients and their families. The NHS officers also interacted with some of the doctors who travel with Operation Smile and began creating relationships with the organization.

Reflection

One of the most important parts of any project is looking back and reflecting on its impact. We as a chapter require all of our members to complete a form that asks them what impact they made and what stood out to them after each project. The students can include in this document other members who were instrumental in making their project successful. This helps us as officers understand the inclusiveness of the project and who else benefited from the experience. We keep these reflective review forms on file to help new members get inspired for future community service projects. •



Noah Sperber and **Camila Cardona** are president and treasurer, respectively, of the National Honor Society chapter at Riviera Preparatory School in Miami, FL.

To learn more about Operation Smile, visit www.operationssmile.org.

A CONVERSATION WITH...

Get inspiration from one special individual who's making a difference

Donovan Livingston

Former student council and National Honor Society member, Master of Education graduate from Harvard University Graduate School of Education, and current doctoral candidate at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro



Advise: When did you first know you wanted to participate in student council and National Honor Society? What did you hope to gain from the experience?

Livingston: From an early age, my parents instilled in me the value of leadership. As first-generation college students and products of the civil rights era, they were exposed to a unique kind of leadership in the face of overt oppression and discrimination—the kind of leadership that inspires hope and sustains a movement. With that in mind, I can recall a moment in preschool when I was disciplined by my teachers for refusing to eat lunch. Instead, I was convinced by a friend that dining on leaves during recess would be a better idea—I mean, it made sense. Leaves are like a vegetable, right? Anyway, I was in “time out” when my dad arrived to pick me up. To say he was livid would be an understatement! Long story short, he and my mom sat me down that night and explained the concept of leadership—how leaders are guided by a morality rooted in justice, fairness, and equality. Moreover, that day they insisted that true leaders don’t let others convince them to break the rules. Since that moment, I have always taken an interest in student governance and representing my peers’ collective voice. While some would say it was my parents’ wrath that evoked my interest in leadership, I saw my participation in student council as a means for increasing minority student representation in the decision making within the schools I attended. Naturally, that inclination inspired my performance in the classroom—heightening my interest and eventual induction into the National Honor Society.

Advise: Did you join student council in middle school or high school? Were you a member of NJHS as well as NHS?

Livingston: Funny you should ask! I joined student council as early as fifth grade. I was the student body president of Lloyd E. Auman Elementary School and later at 71st Classical Middle School [in Fayetteville, NC]. Although that only amounted to leading the pledge of allegiance at assemblies and an anchor spot on our weekly schoolwide news broadcast, those moments laid the foundation for understanding what it meant to be vocal on behalf of my peers. I was later inducted into the National Honor Society during my junior year of high school.

Advise: You currently hold a BA in history, two master’s degrees in education, and are working on your doctorate in philosophy. At what point did you realize a strong education is essential for success?

Livingston: From birth, my parents have encouraged me to regard education as the foundation of a life best lived. My mom often jokes that one of my first words was “college.” Although I do not recall my first words, my parents existed as examples of how education attainment can improve one’s quality of life. As educators themselves—my father, a principal, and my mother, a speech-pathologist—they were mentors to the students they served. There were moments I would accompany my parents to the mall or grocery store, and former students of theirs—and I’m talking full-on grown-ups—would express their sincere gratitude and appreciation for the work my parents did on their behalf, both in and outside of the classroom.

Although I did not always want to be an educator (in another life I dreamed of being an architect), I saw the field as an opportunity for me to serve others. Since 2009, I have worked in various college-access roles, helping first-generation, low-income, and traditionally underrepresented students in higher education navigate the transition from high school to college. To me, in many ways, the work I do is an act of social justice, as I regard the pursuit and completion of higher education as a mechanism for leveraging personal growth, as well as social and economic advancement.

Advise: You have a new book on the way. Could you share a bit about that?

Livingston: In my 2016 convocation address, I performed a spoken word poem titled “Lift Off.” The poem was met with great enthusiasm from educators, students, and social media outlets worldwide. In so doing, I collaborated with Penguin Random House Publishing Group to create a new adaptation of the speech in the form of a book; it will be released on April 4, just in time for my graduation! Edsel Rodriguez, renowned artist whose works have been featured in *The New York Times*, *TIME Magazine*, *The New Yorker*, and the cover of Chinua Achebe’s *Things Fall Apart*, was commissioned to illustrate *Lift Off*. His work provides a stunning visual complement to lyrics throughout the poem. Preorders for *Lift Off* are available here: <http://tinyurl.com/livingstonliftoff>.

Advise: What would you say to a student who is considering joining student council or the Honor Societies?

Livingston: I would encourage that student to think about what it means to represent all people. More specifically, I would challenge the student to listen actively to the concerns of his or her community and provide opportunities for those voices that are often unheard. These organizations provide a space for students to express themselves. Expression, of course, exists in many forms. Be it an art exhibit, poetry slam, protest, teach-in, or town hall meeting, potential members of student council and NHS must take the reins in critically analyzing the needs, issues, and concerns directly affecting their surrounding community. With that in mind, I would encourage those interested in joining student council or the Honor Societies to develop and promote programming that gives students a space to address the systemic problems that influence what happens in school (e.g., poverty, redlining and/or gentrification, creating and sustaining positive relationships with law enforcement, etc.). Although the task may seem mighty, the skills one

acquires from leading such endeavors conditions them for democracy and future acts of civic engagement.

Advise: Did the service work you did with student council and NHS ignite an interest in helping others? How so?

Livingston: Participating in student organizations such as student council and NHS taught me how to effectively organize service opportunities for myself and others. I always understood that service was important; however, identifying a community need and planning an event addressing that need is another thing altogether. Working with others to plan Adopt-a-Highway, Habitat for Humanity, and peer mentoring opportunities was essential to my understanding of both *why* and *how* service is done.

Advise: Please share your fondest memory from your time in student council and NHS.

Livingston: Although I recently began to experiment with, write, and perform rap and spoken word poetry, at the time I was still very much attached to visual art. As an avid sketcher—and budding architect, of course—I submitted a design for the NHS T-shirt competition. I labored over that drawing for several nights between reading assignments, meetings, practices, and a part-time job. I was sure to incorporate our Buccaneer logo, a skull-and-crossbones emblazoned atop a tattered flag. The phrases “N.H.S.” and “Jack Britt High School National Honor Society” wrapped themselves around a blue and green planet earth. Our school colors, purple and gold, boldly adorned

each letter. Having lost the Senior Class of 2005 shirt design competition earlier in the year, I was determined to create a winning image! I remember the designs on display in the cafeteria. The artists’ names remained anonymous to dissuade bias. Once the votes were tallied, it was revealed that my design was the winner! While it was special to see a creation of mine as a T-shirt worn by my peers, what that moment truly symbolized was how adept I’d become in the art of bringing people together. As I matured, it became clear that what I truly learned from these experiences was a unique skill in connecting people, creating a collective sense of community. We were not a random assemblage of students with good grades and a knack for bartering false promises for votes. No. We were a body of individuals committed to the task of reflecting the needs of others. Thank you, Delarese Townsend—my NHS adviser—who saw fit to hold us accountable for doing all we could to ensure the success of ourselves and others. •

“We were not a random assemblage of students with good grades and a knack for bartering false promises for votes. No. We were a body of individuals committed to the task of reflecting the needs of others.”

COLLABORATION

Get fresh and inspiring ideas for your next project

Every 15 Minutes

The Spring Valley High School student council in Las Vegas, NV, hosted the nationally recognized Every 15 Minutes program—an educational experience that reminds everyone of the dangers associated with driving while impaired and texting while driving. The event lasted two days, and through a series of some very powerful visual aids, reenactments, and guest speakers—such as real-life victims of drunk driving—students received a compelling message that is sure to resonate. To learn more about the program, visit www.everyfifteenminutes.com/aboutus.



Fulfills Global Citizenship initiative strand: awareness/perspectives



SENIOR CITIZEN PROM

Spring has officially sprung, and you know what that means—prom season. The student council at Margaret Buerkle Middle School in St. Louis, MO, took it a step further and hosted a special prom just for senior citizens. The theme of the prom revolved around movies. Students dressed up as movie characters and brought in food to serve a potluck-style meal for 24 attendees. After the meal, student council members took turns dancing with the guests, a prom king and queen were crowned, and students assisted with cleanup. Council members note that the event is a great way to bring several generations together and connect with members of the community.

Fulfills Global Citizenship initiative strand: equity



Use this key for help determining whether these projects could work for your school.



THINK COLLEGE

THURSDAYS

National Honor Society members of Wylie High School in Wylie, TX, hosted a Think College Thursday Night mini-conference, allowing participants to attend six 20-minute sessions in the following categories: graduating seniors, current juniors, underclassmen (sophomores and freshmen), and parents/guardians. It was a great way to educate students of all levels and parents about their higher education options!



NATIONAL SCHOOL LIBRARIAN DAY

Did you know National School Librarian Day is April 4? The Ernest A. Becker Sr. Middle School student council in Las Vegas, NV, marked the occasion by presenting their school librarian, Ms. Fritzche, with a beautiful terrarium in keeping with the Chinese proverb, "A book is like a garden that is kept in the pocket." Be sure to take the time to recognize your school librarian in a special way!



SPACE



KISS THE SENIORS GOODBYE



The Marlow High School student council in Marlow, OK, sold “Kiss the Seniors Goodbye” candy grams during April and May as a fundraising event. Any student could buy a “kiss gram,” but only seniors could be the recipients. The grams consisted of a bag of Hershey Kisses along with a handwritten note to give the seniors a special send-off.



FILL THE CRIB

The NHS chapter at Benjamin Russell High School in Alexander City, AL, worked with three other school organizations to collect diapers, bottles, wipes, jarred food, clothing, and toiletries for the local Sav-A-Life pregnancy resource center— an organization dedicated to offering free and confidential services to women, men, and families facing an unplanned pregnancy. By the end of the supply drive, a crib was filled to the brim with helpful items for those in need!



Fulfills Global Citizenship initiative strand: empathetic actions and wellness



DAY WITHOUT HATE

The student council at Jefferson Academy Secondary School in Broomfield, CO, led their annual Day Without Hate—an event that promotes nonviolence, unity, and respect in schools. In preparation for the event, the council made hundreds of posters to cover the school with messages of peace and sold T-shirts for \$5 that featured the slogan “If everyone matters, no one is forgotten.” Students were welcomed to school in the morning with music playing and students cheering outside. There were also “passing period challenges” between classes, such as hug



five people on your way to your next class, say something nice to three people you don't know, and high five everyone you see. Day Without Hate is a simple way to remind students to be kind to one another and stand up for those who are bullied in our schools.

Fulfills Global Citizenship initiative strand: positive social change



Mayor for a Day

Each year, the student council at Thibodaux High School in Thibodaux, LA, participates in the Mayor for a Day program, in which students in good standing can campaign to serve in office for a day, shadowing officials such as the mayor, coroner, sheriff, fire chief, school board superintendent, and judges. Winners dress in business attire, get sworn in, attend a luncheon, and are given a key to the city. This program offers students the chance to see what goes into running their city and learn about the main organizations within each department.



Fulfills Global Citizenship initiative strand: civic engagement



WANT MORE IDEAS? Log in to the National Student Project Database for thousands of project ideas from schools across the country.

nhs.us/projects • njhs.us/projects • nasc.us/projects



TAKE TEN

As a busy adviser, your time is especially valuable, so we've rounded up tips and resources just for you that only take 10 minutes or less.



BROWSE LISTVERSE FOR 10

Listicles might be the hippest downfall of journalism as we know it, but they might also be the perfect distraction from your daily stressors. Indulge in a website devoted entirely to ranking, surveying, comparing, and listing every topic you've never thought of before. Stressing about having to engage in small talk can feel awful, but spending a mere 10 minutes on Listverse.com will likely provide you with enough mindless facts and stats to last you five lifetimes.

ASSIST YOUR AURA WITH

AROMATHERAPY

Aromatherapy is that new-age trend making a comeback from about 4,000 B.C. As far as we know, the Egyptians can be credited with burning incense made from aromatic woods, herbs, and spices. Fast-forward a few thousand years, and we now have handy little oil burners that fill the room with any number of possible scents that evoke effects ranging from invigoration to relaxation. According to www.aromatherapy.com, certain essential oils and scents have been known to have the following effects:

- Bergamot for relaxation
- Patchouli for stress relief
- Lavender for anxiety reduction
- Geranium for balance
- Melissa for balance and confidence
- Mandarin for calming the body
- Palmarosa for calming the mind
- Neroli for depression
- Lemon for invigoration
- Ylang-ylang, jasmine, or sandalwood for nerve moderation or excitement



GET HYPED:

IT'S NATURAL LIGHT

Take advantage of as many sunny days as you can during the spring rainy seasons and bolster your mood a bit with 10 minutes of natural light. Find a nice soft spot of grass or other surface where you can stand or sit outside. Squeeze as much sunlight into those 10 minutes as you can. Natural sunlight stimulates the production of serotonin (those feel-good receptors in your brain) and helps relieve seasonal affective disorder.

DOUGHY RELAXATION

MAKE TIME FOR A MORE MALLEABLE STATE OF MIND

Take some time away and squish a pliable substance, such as Play-Doh or moon sand. It might sound juvenile, but we haven't seen 7-year-olds stressing over the printer running out of ink at the most inconvenient time of the day. When stressed out, our bodies physically tense up and clench. Repeatedly squeezing and releasing something squishy can leave you feeling much more relaxed than when you started.





The sky's the limit for your student council at this year's **National Association of Student Councils (NASC) conference.**

At this unforgettable three-day event, student leaders and advisers from across the country will be immersed in exciting and meaningful leadership training and activities. With inspiring speakers, informative student workshops and seminars, and quality professional development for advisers, the NASC National Conference will fill students with enthusiasm and ideas to help launch your council into the new school year.

Register today!



NASC CONFERENCE
JUNE 26–28, 2017
 PINKERTON ACADEMY | DERRY, NH

#NASConf17 • nasconference.org

NASC is a program of NASSP  National Association of Secondary School Principals



MAKING A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE

How are your students #MakingGlobalChange? Join student council and Honor Society chapter members around the world in the first-ever **NASSP student leadership initiative on global citizenship**. Tell your students to post their pics to Instagram and we'll help them pay it forward! Their Instagram post using #MakingGlobalChange could win \$100 for their favorite charity.

Get involved and start planning today!



GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP

STUDENTS CHANGING THE WORLD TOGETHER



NASSP
National Association
of Secondary School Principals
NHS, NJHS, NEHS, NASC are programs of NASSP.

Visit www.makingglobalchange.org for ideas and contest details.