

# Promote Student Involvement

Dear PTA President,

Students of all ages are eligible to join any PTA or PTSA and are given the same privileges and responsibilities as any other member of the association.

Students bring:

- Enthusiasm
- Extra energy to the PTA/PTSA
- New perspective to ideas and programs
- Information regarding students' interests, concerns and viewpoints
- Limitless participation in planning and executing PTA/PTSA programs

Inviting students to join PTA/PTSA is an excellent way to encourage their support and participation as stakeholders in their school community.

Students gain opportunities and experience in:

- Advocacy
- Leadership
- Public speaking
- Decision-making
- Conflict resolution
- Community service
- Working cooperatively
- Scholarship opportunities
- Personal growth and development
- Planning and implementing programs and events

An effective collaboration of students and adults helps to ensure that PTA/PTSA programs are relevant and serve the needs of the students and the school community.

**Use this packet to develop student involvement in your PTA and have a successful year!**

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## Contents of Student Involvement Packet

Template for Developing Student Involvement:  
Elementary; Middle School; High School

How to Effectively Involve Students  
Develop Student Membership

Brochure *Students Are Our Future* is also included in this service mailing.

## Template for Developing Student Involvement: Elementary School

<b>Ideal Positions for Students</b>	<b>Creating Volunteer Enthusiasm</b>	<b>FAQ &amp; A</b>
<p><b>Student Representative</b> Consider the position of student representative. If your school has a student government or similar student leadership group, a representative from that group can promote meaningful communication between the different organizations within the school. Alternatively, consider offering this position to the older students or to a student from each grade.</p> <p><b>Box Top (or other collections) Coordinator</b> While students may be too young to coordinate the box top collections themselves, they can assist in organizing and counting. Consider forming a group of student volunteers to count box tops one day after school every one or two weeks.</p> <p><b>Ambassador</b> Students can be exceptional greeters for PTA meetings and PTA sponsored events. Station 2 or 3 students at the door to greet parents as they arrive.</p> <p><b>Festival Committee</b> Holiday celebrations are exciting times for young students. They will jump at any opportunity to help as needed by taking tickets, ushering guests, and working booths.</p>	<p><b>Membership Campaign</b> Young students love the excitement and competition of a membership campaign.</p> <p>Invite students to participate in the development of the membership theme and the visual demonstrations of membership growth.</p> <p><b>Include Students</b> Ask children about their ideas and opinions. This is a great way to create excitement about what your PTA is doing.</p> <p>When children volunteer and work with adults in a positive environment, it helps to build leadership skills and self-esteem.</p> <p><b>Reflections Program</b> Encourage creativity with this fun PTA program.</p> <p><b>Student Recognition</b> Create an award program to recognize students for their contributions to PTA/PTSA. A system of recognition creates a climate of respect and value for PTA involvement.</p>	<p><b>Question:</b> Can young students join PTA?</p> <p><b>Answer:</b> Yes! Upon payment of full membership dues, students of any age have all membership privileges and responsibilities.</p> <p><b>Question:</b> Can young students volunteer and hold positions on the PTA board?</p> <p><b>Answer:</b> Yes! Students may volunteer and hold board positions with age and skill appropriate activities.</p> <p><b>Question:</b> Can students belong to PTA or must we become a PTSA?</p> <p><b>Answer:</b> Your school does not have to be a PTSA for students to become members or volunteer. Becoming a PTSA encourages a commitment to involving students in the organization.</p>

## Template for Developing Student Involvement: Middle School

Ideal Positions for Students	Creating Volunteer Enthusiasm	FAQ & A
<p><b>Student Representative</b> A representative from student government or similar group can promote meaningful communication between organizations.</p> <p><b>Committee Chairman</b> Appoint a student as a committee chairman.</p> <p><b>Red Ribbon Week Committee</b> Promote healthy peer relationships that expand on the “just say no” concept.</p> <p><b>Web Site</b> Students are often more fluent with web technologies than adult board members.</p> <p><b>Box Top (or other collections) Coordinator</b> Students can coordinate the collection of box tops while adult board members assist with the required paper work.</p> <p><b>Food Drive / Charitable Collections</b> Students, with guidance, can coordinate, sort and deliver much needed items within the community.</p> <p><b>Ambassador</b> Students can be exceptional greeters for PTA meetings and PTA sponsored events. Station 2 or 3 students at the door to greet parents as they arrive.</p> <p><b>Officer Position</b> Offer a board position that fits the skills, abilities, and available time of the individual. Students can perform and benefit from many board positions with help from an adult mentor.</p> <p>For example, the position of secretary allows students to be actively involved and enhances their note taking and concentration skills.</p> <p>Refer to <i>California State PTA Toolkit</i>, 3.6.5: Legal Issues to Consider When Involving Students.</p> <p><b>Student Delegate at Convention</b> Youth 12 years or older may register as delegates to the California State PTA Convention and witness advocacy in action! There are workshops designed just for students.</p>	<p><b>Effectively Involve Students</b> Students are stakeholders in their education. Emphasize PTA’s long history of advocacy and legislative activities on behalf of youth.</p> <p>Circulate a survey among students to assess their needs and preferences for programs and activities.</p> <p>Invite all students to an informal gathering to discuss the survey results.</p> <p>Encourage collaboration with students and PTSA to ensure relevant programs that address the needs of students and their school.</p> <p><b>Involve Student Leaders</b> Ask student governance leaders to assist in promoting the value of collaboration.</p> <p>Invite students from campus clubs to present their activities to the PTA/PTSA.</p> <p>Invite a high school PTSA student to present to middle school students the benefits of PTSA involvement on campus.</p> <p><b>Community Service</b> Involve students in collecting food, clothing and books for homeless shelters; environmental clean-up; and mentoring children in elementary school. Ask students what resonates with them. They will have some great ideas.</p> <p><b>Membership Drive</b> Enlist student help in promoting your membership campaign and encouraging other students to join PTA.</p> <p><b>Reflections Program</b> Encourage creativity with this PTA program.</p> <p><b>Student Recognition</b> An award program recognizes students’ contributions to PTA/PTSA and creates a climate of respect and value for PTA involvement.</p>	<p><b>Question:</b> What are the advantages of involving students?</p> <p><b>Answer:</b> Students bring enthusiasm, energy, fresh ideas and focus to issues that affect them and their communities.</p> <p><b>Question:</b> Can students belong to PTA or must we become a PTSA?</p> <p><b>Answer:</b> Your school does not have to be a PTSA for students to become members or volunteer. Becoming a PTSA encourages a commitment to involving students in the organization.</p> <p><b>Question:</b> Can students be board members?</p> <p><b>Answer:</b> Yes! Students may hold any appointed or elected position. It is up to the nominating committee to consider the ability of every nominee.</p> <p><b>Question:</b> How do we become a PTSA?</p> <p><b>Answer:</b> A name change requires a change in the bylaws. Contact the council or district for assistance.</p>

# Template for Developing Student Involvement: High School

Ideal Positions for Students	Creating Volunteer Enthusiasm	FAQ & A
<p><b>Student Representative</b> A representative from student government or similar group can promote meaningful communication between organizations. Or create a student committee that meets during the day and sends a representative to the PTSA board meetings.</p> <p><b>Committee Chairman</b> Appoint a student as a committee chairman.</p> <p><b>Red Ribbon Week Coordinator</b> A student can help assure an effective collaboration of PTSA and student activities.</p> <p><b>Web Site</b> Students are often more fluent with web technologies than adult board members.</p> <p><b>Food Drive / Charitable Collections</b> Students can coordinate, sort and deliver much needed items within the community.</p> <p><b>Officer Position</b> Offer a board position that fits the skills, abilities, and available time of the individual. Students can perform and benefit from many board positions with guidance from an adult mentor.</p> <p>For example, the position of secretary allows students to be actively involved and enhances their note taking and concentration skills.</p> <p>Refer to <i>California State PTA Toolkit</i>, 3.6.5: Legal Issues to Consider When Involving Students.</p> <p><b>Student Delegate at Convention</b> Youth may register as delegates to the California State PTA Convention and witness advocacy in action! There are workshops designed just for students.</p> <p><b>Student Member of California State PTA</b> California State PTA invites students to apply for positions on its board. As members of the Board of Managers, students provide valuable perspective and insight and have opportunities to affect statewide PTA policy and decisions. Visit <a href="http://www.capta.org">www.capta.org</a> or talk with the district PTA president for more information.</p>	<p><b>Effectively Involve Students</b> Students are stakeholders in their education. Emphasize PTA's long history of advocacy and legislative activities on behalf of youth.</p> <p>Circulate a survey among students to assess their needs and preferences for programs and activities. Invite all students to an informal gathering to discuss survey results.</p> <p>Encourage collaboration with students and PTSA to ensure relevant programs that address the needs of students and their school.</p> <p><b>Involve Student Leaders</b> Ask student leaders to assist in promoting the value of collaboration.</p> <p>Invite students from clubs on campus to present to the PTA/PTSA about their activities.</p> <p><b>Community Service</b> High school students are passionate about issues that affect their communities, the environment and the world. Community service is a great opportunity for them to help others, feel valued, and discover their advocacy voice; and is often a requirement for graduation and enhances a job resume.</p> <p><b>Membership Drive</b> Enlist student help in promoting your membership campaign and encouraging other students to join PTA.</p> <p>Ask for student and parent participation at student registration/orientation, and Back to School Night.</p> <p>Place a student volunteer form on your PTSA website.</p> <p><b>Reflections Program</b> Encourage creativity with this PTA program.</p> <p><b>Scholarships</b> Provide scholarships to deserving seniors who are PTA members.</p> <p><b>Student Recognition</b> An award program recognizes students' contributions to PTA/PTSA and creates a climate of respect and value for PTA involvement.</p>	<p><b>Question:</b> What are the advantages of involving students?</p> <p><b>Answer:</b> Students bring enthusiasm, energy, fresh ideas and focus to issues that affect them and their communities.</p> <p><b>Question:</b> Can students belong to PTA or must we become a PTSA?</p> <p><b>Answer:</b> Your school does not have to be a PTSA for students to become members or volunteer. Becoming a PTSA encourages a commitment to involving students in the organization.</p> <p><b>Question:</b> Can students be board members?</p> <p><b>Answer:</b> Yes! Students may hold any appointed or elected position, including president.</p> <p><b>Question:</b> How do we become a PTSA?</p> <p><b>Answer:</b> A name change requires a change in the bylaws. Contact the council or district for assistance.</p>

# How To Effectively Involve Students

From the grass roots of our local PTAs to National PTA, students are a vital part of our organization; bringing enthusiasm, energy, fresh ideas and focus to issues that affect them and their communities.



**Students of all ages are eligible to join any PTA or PTSA and are given the same privileges and responsibilities as any other member of the association.** Students work together with parents and teachers as a team; developing skills as advocates and community leaders. The California State PTA actively encourages and supports student participation in PTA/PTSA leadership, events and programs at every level of PTA – unit, council, district, and state.

**Students are key to a successful PTSA.** Students play a valuable role and offer significant insight into the issues facing today's middle- and high-school age students and are eager to be involved in implementing positive change. Inviting students to join PTA/PTSA is an excellent way to encourage their support and participation as stakeholders in their school community. An effective collaboration of students and adults helps to ensure that PTA/PTSA programs are relevant and serve the needs of the students and the school community.

- **Survey.** For example, ask all students if they
  - feel safe at school;
  - are concerned about the availability of nutritious foods on campus;
  - receive resources they require for special needs;
  - feel engaged in the classroom;
  - understand what is being taught;
  - what they like most about their education;
  - what they like least about their education; and
  - what they would like to see changed.
- **Discuss.** Invite all students on campus to an informal gathering. Go over the results of the student survey. Discuss their needs. Inform students that PTSA involvement is not about fundraising; emphasize PTA's long history of advocacy and legislative activities on behalf of youth.
- **Collaborate.** Encourage student involvement in PTA as an effective way to bring about positive change. As PTSA board and committee members, they work with adult members to ensure that PTA programs are relevant and address the needs of students and their school.
- **Networking.** If there are several PTSAs in your area, organize a student network. Your council or district PTA may be able to offer assistance with this. Students working together throughout a community can have tremendous impact on issues and awareness. Invite your superintendent to one of these network meetings. He/she will be impressed with the commitment and the energy demonstrated by the students.
- **Recognize.** Appreciate the work that your officers and members do. Congratulate them in the PTSA newsletter. Ask the editor of the student newspaper for a brief space to celebrate PTSA activities. Purchase an advertisement in the yearbook to honor and recognize PTSA accomplishments.

# Develop student membership

## ***Some helpful ideas to encourage student membership in your PTA/PTSA***

- ❑ Ask for help. Most students are willing to help if asked.
- ❑ Many high schools now require documented community service hours as a prerequisite for graduation. Volunteer hours with PTA/PTSA can be credited toward this requirement.
- ❑ The California State PTA grants numerous scholarships every year to graduating seniors throughout the state. One of the eligibility requirements is PTA/PTSA membership.
- ❑ Inform the student body that PTSA is more than fundraising; emphasize the advocacy and the legislative activities performed by PTA.
- ❑ Set up a bulletin board with pictures and notices of PTA/PTSA programs in a high-traffic area of the school or community.
- ❑ Inform counselors, administrators, and teachers of PTA/PTSA programs for students.
- ❑ Make a presentation before the student council stressing the advantage of PTA/PTSA membership for students. Enlist the group's support and listen to members' ideas for involving students.
- ❑ Survey students to determine their needs and interests.
- ❑ If possible, start with a core of students who are already involved in PTA/PTSA. Use them as your public relations team.
- ❑ Hold brief meetings on campus during the lunch periods or immediately after school (with administrative permission).
- ❑ Discuss the benefits of PTSA involvement and how students can collaborate with adult members to address students' needs.
- ❑ Encourage students to hold positions on the PTA executive board.
- ❑ Encourage student members to recruit their peers.
- ❑ Emphasize that PTA/PTSA can be fun, using logos, T-shirts, music, and drama to spark interest.
- ❑ Hold "each-one-reach-one" recruitment drives in which every student member agrees to bring another student into PTA/PTSA.
- ❑ Help students realize that their membership is an integral part of your PTA/PTSA, not just a temporary goal. Students offer valuable insight into issues facing today's youth.
- ❑ Collaborate with students to conduct a specific, meaningful, short-term, school-wide project, the success of which will garner interest in a more intensive PTA/PTSA experience.
- ❑ Conduct campaigns to educate students about the needs they can meet. For example, provide information about violence prevention, arts education programs and legislative initiatives.
- ❑ Make sure the administration and school commitment to PTA/PTSA is clear to all students. Feeling that PTA/PTSA is a meaningful part of the total school experience can be a motivating factor.
- ❑ Show role model support by using "star" endorsers. These "stars" might include school leaders or teachers who participate in PTA/PTSA activities.
- ❑ Demonstrate support by providing public awards for student involvement via news media, announcements in student newspapers, assemblies, etc.
- ❑ Show potential members how PTA/PTSA activities relate to special interests such as art, writing, health and safety, legislation and conservation.
- ❑ Telephone parents to explain what their child will be doing or make a home visit to meet parents personally.