



What is the Technology Student Association?

The Technology Student Association is a non-profit national student organization. TSA's mission is to inspire its student members to prepare for careers in a technology-driven economy and culture.

Involvement in TSA benefits teachers as well as students. Relating class activities to local, regional, state and national technology related competitive events can be highly motivational for students. The natural interaction between teachers and students can provide an excellent learning environment, while working toward goals.

TSA is the only student organization dedicated exclusively to students enrolled in technology education classes grades K-12. TSA is recognized by the U.S. Dept of Education, many state education agencies, the National Association of Secondary School Principals, the International Technology Education Association and the National Coordinating Council of Career and Technical Student Organizations.

Who Are TSA's Members?

TSA's membership includes over 200,000 middle and high school students in 2,500 schools spanning 48 states.

TSA's members:

- ▶ are students from different races and ethnic backgrounds, with different grade point averages and outlooks.
- ▶ have an interest in technology and a desire to be a part of a team with common goals.
- ▶ have taken, or are currently taking, a class in technology.

Why Start a TSA Chapter?

For most TSA advisors, TSA is not the only organization they are involved with. Many also coach, are class advisors, and work on other school activities. So why do they also advise a TSA chapter? Most would tell you that they do so because they feel TSA offers:

- ▶ leadership opportunities
- ▶ teamwork
- ▶ excellent competitions
- ▶ a sense of belonging to a group of deserving students.

Here is a sample of what many of them had to say about TSA in a recent survey.

“TSA gives the students an opportunity to apply their knowledge and skills in a friendly, competitive atmosphere. TSA develops leadership and communication skills.”

“TSA is student friendly. Kids like it. It appeals to a variety of students.”

“TSA involves students who would otherwise receive little attention as an athlete, etc. The competitions also challenge students to think.”

“TSA gives students an opportunity to perform at a level above what they thought they were capable of.”

“TSA helps meek students turn into leaders.”

“TSA gives all kinds of kids positive goals to strive for and allows them to use technology in innovative ways. I am always amazed by how many of my TSA members go on to achieve incredible results in TSA, school, and life.”

“TSA provides students with experiences (ie. competition, collaboration with students from different schools, etc.) that they would not likely have without involvement in TSA.”

How Much Does It Cost?

TSA offers two ways to affiliate – individual membership and CAP (Chapter Affiliation Program) membership.

· Individual membership is best for small chapters or large chapters of dedicated students. Each member pays a national membership fee (plus applicable state and local dues) and receives a copy of all student mailings (sent to the advisor).

· Large chapters should consider the CAP program. This allows chapters to affiliate on a “flat fee” basis with an unlimited number of students. CAP membership is effective in chapters where students rotate through a technology education class for a portion of the year. CAP chapters pay a national membership fee (plus applicable state and local dues) and receive forty of all student mailings.

View current dues at

<http://www.tsaweb.org/get.php?page=/membership/join/programs.html>

TSA operates under a unified dues policy, whereby members must affiliate and pay applicable dues at the local, state and national level.

When to Affiliate

Benefits of early affiliation:

- ▶ chapter receives all mailings
- ▶ chapter is in the TSA “information loop” from the beginning (receives promotional materials, announcements, etc. both at the state and national level).
- ▶ chapters receive Gold Seal Affiliation (for affiliation received by the deadline).

Mid year or later affiliations:

For new chapters, however, it sometimes takes longer to get organized. If that is the case, affiliating mid year may be an option.

- ▶ The chapter can form without the pressure of trying to get a whole year’s worth of activities in.
- ▶ Often first year chapters affiliate with a small number of students so that they can “try on” TSA and experience it without feeling overwhelmed.
- ▶ State conferences welcome new chapters and you can plan to attend and be a full participant, or just plan to attend and observe.
- ▶ Affiliating mid-year lets you experience TSA at the commitment level you choose.

How Much Time Does It Take?

There is no question that being an advisor for a TSA chapter (or any other student activity) takes time and commitment. How much time is a function of several variables:

- ▶ **Co-curricular or extra-curricular.** TSA is designed so that it can be a part of a technology classroom, or can be an after school activity.
- ▶ **Program of work.** This is the basis of chapter activities for the year. The program of work is designed to accommodate the amount of time the advisor and members are willing to devote to the endeavor. Considerations for the program of work include: competitions, fundraising if needed, service project, and social events.
- ▶ **Organization.** Organizing your technology program around TSA can actually save time. TSA is designed to be student run through elected officers – this is often a great classroom management tool.

TSA’s 25th Anniversary Fund AN OPPORTUNITY FOR FREE TSA MEMBERSHIP

TSA has funds available to eligible schools to pay for first year memberships. This fund was established in 2002/2003 in honor of TSA’s involvement in and contribution to technology education over the previous 25 years. ***Its purpose is to provide membership funds for new chapters (never before affiliated with***

TSA) where there is no school or community support to do so. This offer is available on a first come, first served basis until the fund is depleted.

It is our hope that by providing membership at no cost for one year, you can experience TSA – the leadership opportunities, the competitions and the camaraderie (both for the students and the teachers) – and can then turn to your school or community with evidence of how TSA plays a vital role in student growth and ask for continued funding.

To apply for the TSA 25th Anniversary Fund membership, go to

Benefits of a TSA Chapter

As a recognized student organization, TSA offers you and your students the opportunity to be involved in local, state and national competitions, to participate in leadership training, and to network with students and advisors from other schools.

Competitive Events: Your chapter may choose to work on TSA competitions just within your school or you can take TSA beyond your school building and compete with others around the state and/or country in technology competitions.

Leadership Opportunities: Leadership training may be offered through the state TSA organization, and is offered annually through national TSA. Officers are elected at the local (chapter) level, the state level and the national level.

Conferences: State and national conferences are an excellent way to expand your TSA experience. They provide a venue for exciting competitions as well as an opportunity to meet students and advisors from other schools with similar interests.

School Scene: TSA's newsletter is published four times a year and is available in print and on the TSA website.

TSA Website: www.tsaweb.org TSA maintains a website with up to date information on the organization, as well as links to resources and ideas on how to strengthen your chapter.

Competition List

To view the full list of TSA's current competitive events and their descriptions go to http://www.tsaweb.org/get.php?page=/competitive_events/index.html

Resources to help you start a chapter
Fax to: 703/758-4852

To request any of the following resources (free of charge), fax back this form, or contact Sandy Honour at shonour@tsaweb.org or toll free at 888/860-9010.

_____ Chapter Affiliation and Information Booklet – (this is the nuts and bolts of affiliating and has all the necessary forms)

_____ 4"x9" Student Flyer – (a flyer for recruiting student members)

_____ TSA Brochure (a brochure designed to inform, parents, counselors, parents or teachers about TSA)

_____ Overview of current Competitive Events (a general description of each event at the middle and high school level)

_____ Steps for starting your chapter (a page with suggestions about what to do first when starting your chapter)

_____ Meeting announcement template (8 1/2" x 11" sheet that can be duplicated and distributed/posted to announce TSA meetings)

_____ TSA promotional poster

_____ Mentor Program information (request to be matched with an experienced chapter to ask questions and learn about TSA)

_____ Advisor e-mail list (sign up on our website to receive updates and announcements from TSA. www.tsaweb.org)

Advisor Name: _____

School Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Thanks for your interest in TSA. If you should have questions or need assistance in affiliating your chapter please contact Sandy Honour at shonour@tsaweb.org or toll free at 888/860-9010.