



Salutations, Tennessee TSA! My name is Jae-Young Son, and I am honored to serve you once more on the State Officer Team as your 2011-2012 State President. This will be my third and final year on the State Officer Team, and will also be my sixth year as a member of TSA. In that time, I have seen TSA undergo great changes. Tennessee TSA, in particular, has a strong tradition of innovation, and I am proud to help continue that tradition.

I live in Knoxville and attend Hardin Valley Academy, where I will be a senior this upcoming school year. Though my chapter is only headed into its fourth year, we have set the bar high: Hardin Valley has produced four State Officers, regularly places in competitive events at the state and national levels, and has been fortunate enough to be able to attend every TSA conference since its existence. My favorite TSA event is Chapter Team; I enjoy the challenge of thinking quickly under pressure and time constraints.

My TSA journey began at Karns Middle School when I was in seventh grade. Ms. Davis, the advisor, encouraged me to join. However, I was wary of being labeled a nerd and only came to the first meeting reluctantly. Once I saw the dedication and pride the members put into their work though, I was hooked. I served as Chapter Vice President at Karns Middle my eighth grade year and at Hardin Valley my freshman year before deciding to run for State Sergeant-at-Arms. My sophomore year, I served as State Vice President. These prior leadership experiences have prepared me to serve as State President this year.

My favorite school subjects include English literature, European history, psychology, and political philosophy. Of those subjects, my absolute favorite school subject is English literature. I am sometimes afraid to enter my room, lest I drown in a sea of books; I usually read three or more books at a time. My favorite authors include J.D. Salinger, F. Scott Fitzgerald, Ray Bradbury, Tim O'Brien, Kurt Vonnegut, T.S. Eliot, e.e. Cummings, and W.H. Auden.

Apart from TSA and academics, my biggest passion is music. I enjoy both listening to and performing music. I play several instruments, including piano, guitar, and my voice. I've been lucky enough to see Silversun Pickups, Manchester Orchestra, Cage the Elephant, Flogging Molly, Passion Pit, Brandi Carlile, and Lady Gaga in concert. My music library is so large that if I were to play every single song I had continuously, I'd need over two weeks to listen to it all.

In all my years as a member of Tennessee TSA, I have never felt so optimistic about our future. I have had the opportunity to meet many of our talented and hard-working members, and I can definitely say that we have never had so much potential in our organization's history. Many of you hold or will hold leadership positions within your chapter, school, and community, and it is this great ability to work towards a brighter tomorrow that drives Tennessee TSA each and every day. It is truly an honor for me to serve such a great delegation.

Together, we can work to make this year in TSA the best year Tennessee TSA has ever known!

Wishing you success in your endeavors this year,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jae Young Son".

Jae-Young Son, State President
Tennessee TSA