



Dear Parents,

Welcome to the Technology Student Association! Thank you for showing interest in this organization. TSA is a student-led organization dedicated to helping members discover and develop their skills in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) and encouraging the next generation of technical leaders. Since its start in 1978, TSA has provided challenging competitions and leadership and community service opportunities to over four million members. This letter is meant to convey a picture of what the TSA experience could be like for your child.

TSA is a competition-based organization, with conferences at the regional, state, and national level. With more than sixty competitions to choose from for middle and high school, members encounter a variety of STEM fields and can explore potential career interests and skills. These events are designed to help build leadership and cooperative skills through an assortment of individual and group competitions.

In addition to the educational opportunities offered through events, students meet fellow members with common interests and build lasting friendships. TSA is also a great addition to college resumes with accomplishments from events, leadership, or community service. Most importantly, members have a lot of fun and create lifelong memories at conferences.

While TSA experiences vary from chapter to chapter, the first portion of the year is often spent working towards creating a successful entry for their events. Each student will choose events that fit their interests and then carry out the required tasks either individually or in groups, depending upon the event. This work will often be done around the students' schedule, sometimes involving mentoring from advisors or teachers, but students are expected to be responsible for managing their time and tasks leading up to the regional, state, and national conferences.

At these conferences, members receive constructive criticism on their work as well as awards for the highest performing entries. Some events are done entirely on site, meaning that no preparatory work is needed, but almost all events require members to bring supplies or a finished product. Students can also participate in business meetings and leadership sessions to expand their knowledge and experience in leadership.

TSA conferences have a dress code that is required for events. All members are required to wear the official TSA button-up shirt, available on the TSA online store, gray pants or skirt, and black dress shoes. At State and Regional Conference, a royal blue button down shirt, however, it is not required to be purchased from the TSA store. A navy blazer for all members and a red TSA tie for boys (also available on the TSA store) are required for the event Chapter Team, but both items are optional in all other events.

Below are the dates and locations for the conferences this year:

East TN Regional Conference - January 19, 2018 in Knoxville, TN

West TN Regional Conference - January 26, 2018 in Memphis, TN

Middle TN Regional Conference - February 2, 2018 in Smyrna, TN

TN State Conference - April 11-14, 2018 in Chattanooga, TN

National Conference - June 22-26, 2018 in Atlanta, GA

For more information about TSA in general, visit <http://www.tsaweb.org/> .

For specific information about how to join, conference costs, and when TSA meets, talk to your chapter's advisor or chapter officer team. We look forward to seeing your child at conferences this year!

Sincerely,

Tennessee TSA

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