

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Dates to Remember!

**Outstanding Student
Council: March 1st**

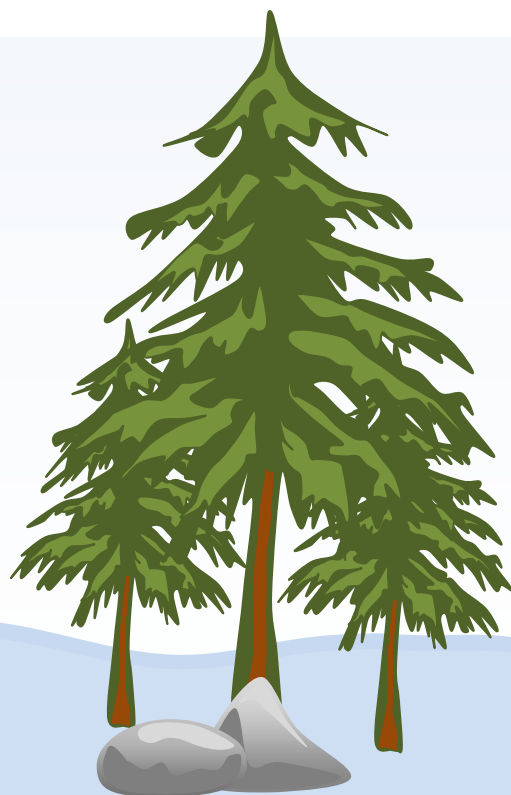
**All-State Student Council:
March 1st**

**SDSCA State Officer
Candidate intent form:
March 1st
SDCSA Convention:
April 1st & 2nd in
Rapid City!**

WELCOME 2025!

Hope everyone had a nice break and ready to tackle the new challenges in 2025! Just remember all the important dates for SDSCA! Continue to do the great work and send us photos of your council's projects!

YOU ARE FEARLESS!



LEADERSHIP *legacy*

My definition of leadership:

Qualities of a good leader:

-
-
-
-
-
-
-
-
-

A leader I admire and why:

My leadership legacy (how I want to be remembered):

LEADERSHIP *Qualities*

The top 5 qualities I believe are important for all leaders to have:

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5

Think of a leader you admire. What quality about them are you attracted to?

Leader:

Quality:

How they demonstrated it:

Think about a leader you don't admire, and identify the quality you don't like:

Leader:

Quality:

How they demonstrated it:

LEADERSHIP *Teamwork*

Define teamwork in your own words:

List three features that
make a great team:

- 1
- 2
- 3

List three dysfunctions
that break a team:

- 1
- 2
- 3

What quality do you think is most important for a team? Explain below:

Quality:

Explanation:

Write your favourite teamwork quote below:



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION for STUDENT ACTIVITIES

ADVOCATES • ADVISORS • ADMINISTRATORS • ALLIES

Beating the Mid-Year Blahs

By Lyn Fiscus

After the busy fall and holiday seasons, many student activity organizations hit a mid-year slump. There aren't as many exciting options looming on the horizon, and it often seems as if the best of the year is behind you. Avoid letting members slip into a slump with some of the following ideas.

- **Find out what members are interested in pursuing.** This is a good time to revisit the goals you set at the beginning of the year. What hasn't been accomplished yet? What new things would members like to get involved with? You can keep your members engaged if the activities of your group are something they are interested in. Remember the old adage: People support what they create.
- **Reconnect with group goals.** In addition to revisiting the group's goals, this is a good time to reaffirm that the goals are still meaningful. What was important to students in August might have changed. Discuss the goals you have and why students want to achieve them. Get students pumped up about making a difference in the school community and remind them that they have as much of the year ahead of them as they have behind them.
- **Evaluate traditional activities.** Make sure the things on your upcoming calendar are not on there just because they've always been done. Has the Sadie Hawkins dance in February lost some of its appeal? Instead of trying to motivate members to get excited about organizing it, why not ditch it in favor of a new activity that is more appealing?
- **Plan a variety of activities.** Make sure that the activities you have scheduled appeal to a variety of types of people and offer a variety of ways to be involved. For example, some students aren't interested in going to a dance, but if you added an Xbox 360 tournament in an adjacent room during the dance you might attract a new audience for the event.
- **Develop a sense of belonging.** People like to feel like they are a part of something bigger than themselves. Have a student develop a fun graphic design for a t-shirt for members and have

everyone wear them on the same day. Don't have money for shirts? Develop a locker sign that recognizes members and put them on members' lockers before school one day.

• **Shake up your meetings.** Overcome the "ho-hum, here's another meeting" attitude by changing things up at each meeting. Consider these ideas:

- Have people sit in order by height or alphabetically by the first letter of their middle name or some other random way that will mix them up.
- Inject a funny energizer into the middle of the meeting.
- Give people a voice in what's going on. Make sure there is a vote on something—whether big or small—and not just a bunch of reports at each meeting.
- Take votes by having members physically move themselves to a corner of the room to represent their vote, or just have them stand up if they are in favor.
- Provide snacks—if you feed them they will come!

• **Mix up your committees.** Take a look at the composition of your standing committees and your commissioner positions. Give members an opportunity to change to something new. A fresh topic to work on will give people a new incentive to work.

• **Keep members informed.** The quickest way to lose members is if they don't know what's going on. Publish a calendar each month, use technology to send reminders, keep a group Facebook page updated, develop a Twitter Fast-Follow account, and so forth. In this day and age there's no reason for members to be uninformed.

• **Make activities meaningful.** Plan some service activities that will help members feel they are really making a difference to someone. They will feel good about their involvement and will want to continue being engaged.

• **Engage in a friendly competition.** Invite all the clubs and organizations on campus to create door displays on their adviser's classroom door highlighting their activities and any special accomplishments. Have students vote with pocket change for the display they like best, then donate the collected money to the charity of the winning group's choice.

• **Host a lock-in for student leaders.** Invite the officers and other key leaders from student organizations on campus to an all-night lock-in or retreat. Plan activities that will help students get

• **Recognize contributions.** Everyone likes to be recognized for their efforts, and student leaders often work long hours planning and carrying out activities with no recognition. Make it a regular part of your meetings to call attention to members who have done things recently for the organization. Set up a member mailbox where members can turn in notes about fellow members recognizing them for doing something notable. Read these notes during meetings and give the member a pat on the back. If funds permit, the pat on the back could take the form of a food-service glove filled with goodies awarded to each recognized person.

• **Do things just for fun.** Play games or organize social activities just for the purpose of having fun together—everything doesn't have to serve a higher purpose! Members who laugh and interact with each other in a positive way will develop a strong connection to the group and will keep coming back for more.

Organizational Goals

Having trouble connecting the activities of your group to broader objectives? Student organizations often select some of the following areas in which to develop activities:

- To promote good citizenship
- To promote scholarship and support academic achievement
- To promote positive faculty-student relations
- To foster cooperation among students, faculty, administration, and the community
- To develop and promote leadership abilities
- To promote a sense of belonging to the school community
- To develop class or school spirit
- To provide a forum for student expression
- To promote the general welfare of the school
- To promote campus beautification
- To build awareness, respect, and value for all people
- To promote the cultural and social welfare of the student body