



2026-2027 CHAPTER ADVISOR GUIDE

A large crowd of people, many wearing blue TSA uniforms, is gathered in a large indoor space, likely a convention hall. The people are engaged in various activities, some talking, some looking at their phones, and others walking through the crowd. The atmosphere appears busy and social.

INTRODUCTION

This guide was developed for the educator interested in starting a TSA chapter, as well as the new TSA chapter advisor and the veteran TSA chapter advisor who has served for multiple years.

The material covered presents both general and specific information about the organization – including details for starting a chapter and advisor resources that focus on TSA competitions, programs, and initiatives.

For questions about the guide, please contact National TSA at general@tsaweb.org.



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ABOUT TSA

The Technology Student Association (TSA) is a national non-profit career and technical student organization comprised of middle and high school students engaged in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). TSA was chartered in 1978, and since then over 5,000,000 students have participated in TSA's competitions, intracurricular activities, leadership opportunities, and community service efforts.





MISSION

The Technology Student Association (TSA) enhances personal development, leadership, and career opportunities in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM), whereby members apply and integrate these concepts through intracurricular activities, competitions, and related programs.

MEMBERSHIP BY THE NUMBERS

300,000+

MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT MEMBERS

100%



LIKELY TO GRADUATE FROM HIGH SCHOOL



90%

COLLEGE-BOUND



3,500+

TEACHERS (CHAPTER ADVISORS)

2,800+

SCHOOLS IN 48 STATES



CTE® 85%

ENROLLED IN A CTE PROGRAM

STUDENT MEMBERS

Open to students enrolled in or who have completed technology and engineering courses in school, TSA includes more than 300,000 middle and high school student members across the United States. TSA is supported by educators, parents, and business leaders who believe in the need for a technologically literate society. Members apply and integrate STEM concepts through participation in competitive events, leadership endeavors, co-curricular activities, and related programs. A wide range of opportunities makes TSA a positive experience for every student.

AFFILIATED CHAPTERS

A TSA chapter – which affiliates on the state and national levels – is an organized middle school or high school group of students interested in STEM. Members must be enrolled in or have taken a technology-related course in school, and an advisor (teacher or administrator) must guide the chapter. Membership in TSA provides an opportunity for students to compete in STEM competitions at the local, state, and national levels; participate in leadership and community-oriented activities and programs; and earn recognition for their achievements.

To learn more about TSA, view the video below.



AFFILIATION AND MEMBERSHIP

Chapter members are part of both their state TSA delegation and National TSA.



STATE AND NATIONAL TSA

In addition to the opportunities and resources offered through National TSA, many state TSA organizations offer a leadership conference in the fall, a competition conference in the spring, and other activities during the year. Members are encouraged to attend and participate in the annual National TSA conference. Chapter advisors should be sure to check their state TSA website for information and contact their state advisor to learn how they can be involved.

ALABAMA

ALASKA

ARIZONA

ARKANSAS

CALIFORNIA

COLORADO

CONNECTICUT

DELAWARE

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

FLORIDA

GEORGIA

IDAHO

ILLINOIS

INDIANA

IOWA

KANSAS

KENTUCKY

LOUISIANA

MAINE

MARYLAND

MASSACHUSETTS

MICHIGAN

MINNESOTA

MISSISSIPPI

MISSOURI

MONTANA

NEBRASKA

NEVADA

NEW HAMPSHIRE

NEW JERSEY

NEW MEXICO

NEW YORK

NORTH CAROLINA

NORTH DAKOTA

OHIO

OKLAHOMA

OREGON

PENNSYLVANIA

RHODE ISLAND

SOUTH CAROLINA

SOUTH DAKOTA

TENNESSEE

TEXAS

UTAH

VERMONT

VIRGINIA

WASHINGTON

WEST VIRGINIA

WYOMING

AFFILIATION AND DUES

TSA Chapter Affiliation

TSA members are middle and high school students engaged in STEM across the country. Members are part of an affiliated TSA chapter with an advisor – a teacher or other faculty member at a school.

TSA affiliation is paid for annually. Membership status begins when a chapter completes affiliation and ends at the conclusion of the annual National TSA conference. TSA offers three curriculum-integrated membership programs. Chapters should select the program that works best for them:

RED CAP

Red Chapter Affiliation Program

A chapter affiliates up to 10 members by paying a flat fee. Members may be added during the year for an additional fee. The membership fee for Red CAP is \$120 at the national level, plus state dues.



WHITE CAP

White Chapter Affiliation Program

A chapter affiliates 11 or more members by paying a per member fee for state and national dues. The membership fee for White CAP is \$12 per member at the national level, plus state dues.



BLUE CAP

Blue Chapter Affiliation Program

A chapter affiliates an unlimited number of members in a school for a flat fee. This option is popular among chapters in which students rotate through a STEM class for a portion of the year because it enables all students to be members. The membership fee for Blue CAP is \$400 at the national level, plus state dues.



A chapter's affiliation selection must be the same at the state and national levels. View the list of [state dues](#). View additional important [Member Affiliation Policies](#).

HOW TO AFFILIATE A CHAPTER

Returning TSA chapters: From the Advisor Login tab on the TSA website, previous-year chapter advisors may log in to their chapter site in the TSA Membership System using their existing chapter ID/username and password – and then proceed to online affiliation.

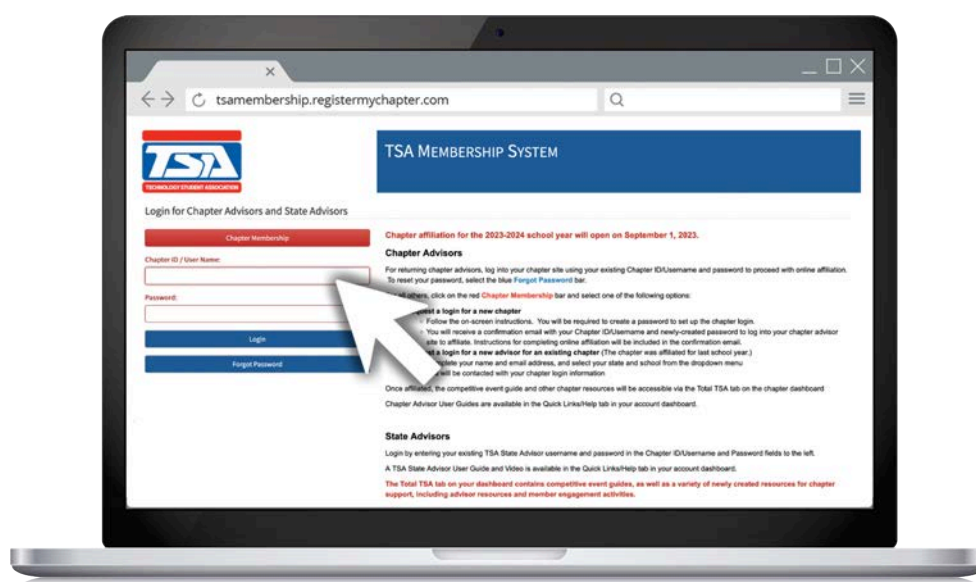
New TSA chapters: From the Advisor Login tab on the TSA website, there are two options for educators who wish to affiliate a chapter: start a new chapter or re-affiliate a previous chapter under a new advisor. For either option, the steps to complete affiliation begin by clicking on the red Chapter Membership bar and following the onscreen instructions.

NOTE: TSA state advisors have the option to participate in the approval or denial of TSA chapter affiliation requests that come from their state. If a state advisor chooses to participate, the advisor must approve or deny each affiliation request within three days of a chapter's request. If no action is taken within that timeframe, National TSA will determine and notify the requesting chapter of an affiliation decision. If a state advisor chooses not to participate in the affiliation request process, National TSA will process and approve all chapter affiliation requests for that state as they are submitted.

Payment: Chapter affiliation payment by credit card immediately activates membership and access to TSA chapter resources. Payment by purchase order must be verified by National TSA before membership in TSA is activated and resources become available.

Once membership is activated, returning and new chapter advisors have access to full TSA competitive event guidelines (for the middle school level or high school level, as appropriate), leadership materials, and chapter and career-oriented information and resources.

For questions or additional support, email register@tsaweb.org.



CHAMPION FUND

When paying for TSA membership dues poses a challenge, the Champion Fund may provide an opportunity to bring TSA to middle schools and high schools. Through the Champion Fund, Red CAP membership costs (up to 10 members and one advisor) for approved schools are covered for one school year. Newly-affiliated chapters can discover all that TSA membership has to offer, including a wide range of challenging STEM-related competitions, and education, leadership, and career resources.



The Champion Fund is for brick-and-mortar schools (online schools are not eligible) that:

1. have never had a TSA chapter and there is no school or community financial support available to pay membership dues.
2. are, at a minimum, in the third school year from when they were last affiliated and there is no school or community financial support available to pay membership dues.
3. have had a TSA chapter within the last three years but currently are experiencing economic hardship because of a disaster and cannot pay membership dues.

Submitted applications are reviewed by a committee to determine eligibility and are processed on a first-come, first-served basis depending upon available funding. All applications require a principal's signature. Schools receiving financial support from the Champion Fund are kept anonymous.

Apply. Download the [Champion Fund application](#).

Donate. Through your donations, the Champion Fund continues to help start TSA chapters at schools with financial considerations. Tax deductible donations may be made by individuals (such as members, officers, advisors, alumni, or parents), local chapters, state delegations, schools, communities, businesses, or other individuals or groups. Donors will receive an electronic receipt. [Donate to the Champion Fund](#).

For more information about the Champion Fund, contact [Maria Raza](#).



FORWARD TO FIFTY

Forward to Fifty (F2F) is a national TSA campaign that capitalizes on the organization's 50th anniversary in June 2028 and its related membership goal of 3,000 chapters and/or 500,000 members

At the beginning of the 2025–2026 school year, National TSA invited state delegations to participate in the F2F campaign by working toward chapter growth goals based on the size of their state delegation. Five states achieved their growth goal and were recognized at the 2026 National TSA Conference. National TSA extends its appreciation and congratulations to the following state delegations for their outstanding efforts during the 2025–2026 school year:

- Florida TSA
- North Carolina TSA
- Oklahoma TSA
- Texas TSA
- Virginia TSA

For the 2026–2027 school year, the focus of the F2F campaign will again be on increasing the number of chapters in state delegations. Information about the achievement goals – which must be met by May 1, 2027 – and their resulting recognition is available to TSA state advisors in the TSA Membership System.

National TSA is most grateful to all in the TSA community for supporting the F2F campaign.



TSA BYLAWS

The TSA Bylaws provide information on such topics as the TSA name, purpose, membership in TSA, chapter voting, chapter meetings, and chapter officers and their duties. This document may be accessed in the password-protected TSA Membership System once affiliation is complete.

TSA Bylaws



ARTICLE I. NAME

SECTION 1

The official name of this organization shall be the Technology Student Association and may be referred to as "TSA."

ARTICLE II. PURPOSES

SECTION 1

The general purposes of this organization are to:

- assist state delegations in the growth and development of TSA.
- assist state delegations in the development and leadership in social, economic, educational and community activities.
- increase the knowledge and understanding of our technological world.
- assist technology education students in the making of informed and meaningful career goals.

SECTION 2

The specific purposes of this organization are to:

- develop, through individual and team work, the ability of members to plan, organize, and use a variety of resources to solve problems.
- explore technology and develop an understanding of technological literacy.
- promote high standards of learning through curricular resource activities.
- encourage students in expressing creativity.
- develop consumer awareness.
- provide career opportunity information pertaining to a broad range of occupations, including training requisites, working conditions, salaries or wages, and other relevant information.
- provide exploratory experiences in classrooms and laboratories and develop partnerships in business or industry to acquaint students with career opportunities.
- assist in providing guidance and counseling for students enrolled in technology education programs in making informed and meaningful career choices.
- expose students to the responsibility of representing a large membership.

- instill desirable work habits and attitudes toward the positive way of life in students and foster a deep respect for the dignity of work.
- prepare individuals for enrollment in advanced or highly skilled vocational and technical education programs.

ARTICLE III. MEMBERSHIP & ORGANIZATION

SECTION 1

The Technology Student Association is an organization of state delegations each operating in accordance with a charter granted by TSA, Inc.

SECTION 2

Each chartered delegation of TSA, Inc., will be responsible for all operational activities within that state or geographic unit under the direction of the State Supervisor of Technology Education or an appointed representative.

SECTION 3

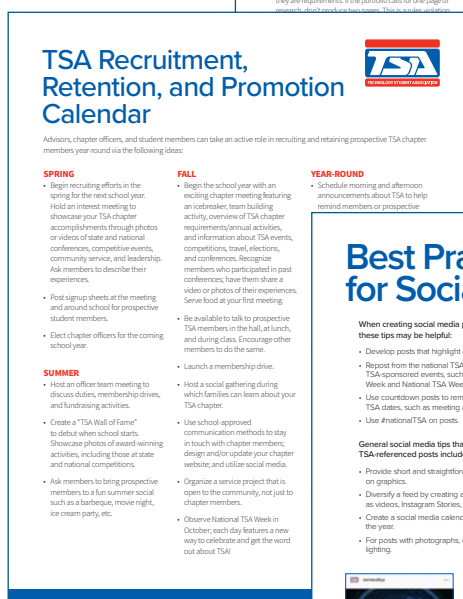
Membership in TSA shall be through chartered state delegations. A delegation will consist of TSA chapters within a state, territory, or equivalent geographic unit. Each chapter will consist of individual members as described below:

- **Active.** Active members shall be students who are presently enrolled in or have been previously enrolled in technology education programs. An active member shall pay dues as established by the TSA, Inc., Board of Directors, and may be declared eligible to hold a national office, to participate in national competitive events or projects, to serve as a national voting delegate, or to otherwise represent their delegations in National TSA affairs as may be approved by their delegations.
- **Associate.** Associate members shall be students who are enrolled in related fields of instruction with emphasis in technology education or who have been previously enrolled in technology education programs. An associate member shall pay dues as established by the TSA, Inc., Board of Directors. Associate members shall not vote or hold office.

RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO CHAPTER ADVISORS

Once affiliation is completed, chapter advisors have full access to TSA competitive event guidelines (for the middle school level or high school level, as applicable) through the password-protected TSA Membership System. The following are examples of additional resources/informational items available with affiliation:

- 10 Ways to Fundraise
- Advisor Academy Videos
- Advisor Appreciation Week
- Chapter Meeting Agenda – Example
- Competition Tips
- Creating a Program of Work – Sample
- Creating a Program of Work – Template
- Dress Code
- Electing Chapter Officers
- Interview Tips
- Membership Affiliation Policies
- National TSA Week
- Recruiting and Retaining Chapter Members
- National Service Project – American Red Cross
- TSA Chapter Bylaws Template
- TSA Facts
- TSA Social Media Best Practices
- TSA Bylaws
- TSA Voices: A Podcast Series



IMPORTANT DATES

2026

August 17

2026-2027 Chapter Affiliation Opens
TEAMS Registration Opens

September 14

National TSA's 48th Anniversary

October 5-9

National TSA Week

November 8

National STEM Day

December 2 – 5

ACTE Career Tech VISION Conference 2026

December 5 – 11

Computer Science Education Week

December 10

TSA Priority Membership Deadline

2027

January 13 – February 20

State Level TEAMS Competition

February 1 – 5

TSA Advisor Appreciation Week

February 1 – 28

Career and Technical Education Month

Spring

National TSA Conference Registration Opens
National TSA Conference Hotel Booking Opens

March 31 – April 3

ITEEA 2027 Conference

April 19 – 23

National Student Leadership Week

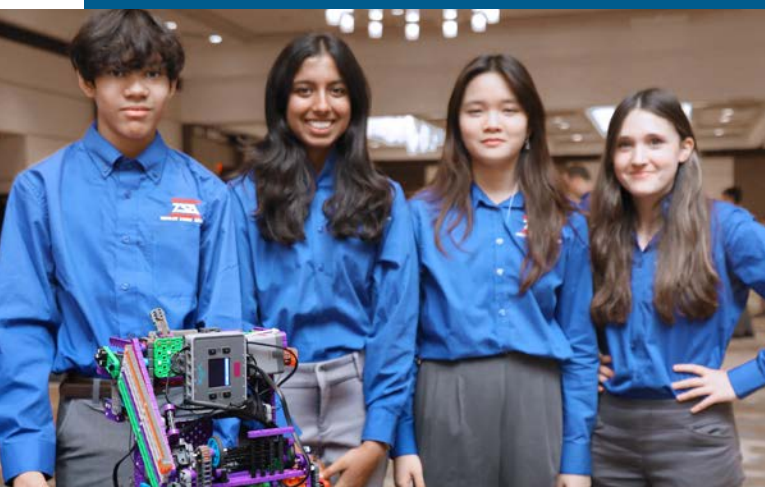
June 23 – 27

2027 National TSA Conference



COMPETITIONS AND PROGRAMS

TSA's competitive event guidelines apply to competition at the annual National TSA conference. In addition, they may be used for local, state, and regional TSA conferences.



HIGH SCHOOL TSA COMPETITIVE EVENTS



TSA high school competitive events fall into the following categories:



- Architecture and Construction Technology
- Communications Technology
- Computer Science and Information Technology
- Leadership
- Manufacturing and Transportation Technology
- STEM (General)
- STEM and the Arts
- Technology and Research

View an overview of [TSA high school competitions](#).

MIDDLE SCHOOL TSA COMPETITIVE EVENTS



TSA middle school competitive events fall into the following categories:



- Architecture and Construction Technology
- Communications Technology
- Computer Science and Information Technology
- Leadership
- Manufacturing and Transportation Technology
- STEM (General)
- STEM and the Arts
- Technology and Research

View an overview of [TSA middle school competitions](#).

SAMPLE TSA COMPETITIONS

Access sample guidelines for two former, but typical, TSA competitive events below:

- [High School 3D Animation](#)
- [Middle School Catapult Design](#)



NATIONAL TSA CONFERENCE DRESS CODE

The TSA Dress Code notes attire requirements for National TSA conference competitors.

Competition Attire

Shirt: official royal blue TSA shirt

Pants, or at least knee-length Skirt: gray

- *Unacceptable:* jeans; jeggings; leggings; baggy pants; exterior pocket pants; shorts

Shoes: black dress shoes worn with black or dark blue socks, hosiery (optional):

- open-toed shoes or sandals are acceptable
- *Unacceptable:* athletic shoes; flip-flops; military boots; or work boots

Required additional attire for Middle and High School Chapter Team event

Blazer: navy blue with official TSA patch

Tie: official TSA tie (males)

- Females are not penalized for wearing the official TSA tie to Chapter Team or any other competitive event

Above attire may be worn for other competitions if preferred by event participants.

General Session Attire

Shirt: the official TSA shirt (royal blue) is preferred; button-down shirt or a polo/golf shirt

- *Unacceptable:* t-shirts; halter tops; tank tops

Pants, or at least knee-length Dress or Skirt

- *Unacceptable:* jeans; jeggings; leggings; baggy pants; exterior pocket pants; shorts

Optional Blazer: navy blue with official TSA patch

Optional Tie: official TSA tie

Shoes: dress shoes worn with dark socks, hosiery (optional):

- open-toed shoes or sandals are acceptable
- *Unacceptable:* athletic shoes; flip-flops; military boots; or work boots

Casual Attire

Appropriate t-shirts, shorts, or jeans.

Casual attire **may not** be worn at competitions or general sessions.



**DRESS CODE
INFOGRAPHIC**

TESTS OF ENGINEERING APTITUDE, MATHEMATICS, AND SCIENCE (TEAMS)

TEAMS engages middle and high school students in solving real-world engineering problems through collaborative, practical application of STEM knowledge. Mathematics is a key component of the competition, helping students develop engineering solutions while strengthening essential career-readiness skills such as teamwork, analytical thinking, and complex problem-solving.



The TEAMS competition is built around original academic and innovative concepts inspired by the National Academy of Engineering Grand Challenges, the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, or other engineering challenges.

TEAMS is a separate competition program from TSA and is jointly managed by TSA and the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM). While TSA members may participate in both TSA and TEAMS competitions, TSA membership is not required to compete in TEAMS. Participation in TEAMS requires a separate registration.

Competing in TEAMS

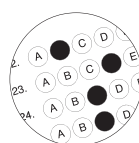
The state level TEAMS competition is held at participating schools during January and February. The national TEAMS competition is held annually as part of the National TSA conference.

Teams of two to four students compete in four TEAMS competition components:

- **Design/Build** – Teams design and build a solution to an engineering challenge.
- **Multiple Choice** – Teams use math and science skills to solve real-world engineering challenges.
- **Essay** – Teams research and write an in-depth essay that is submitted electronically prior to their competition day.
- **Mathematical Modeling** – Teams must develop a mathematical model to determine a solution based on given data.



Design/Build



Multiple Choice



Essay



Mathematical Modeling

The 2027 TEAMS competition theme is “Engineering a Smarter World.”

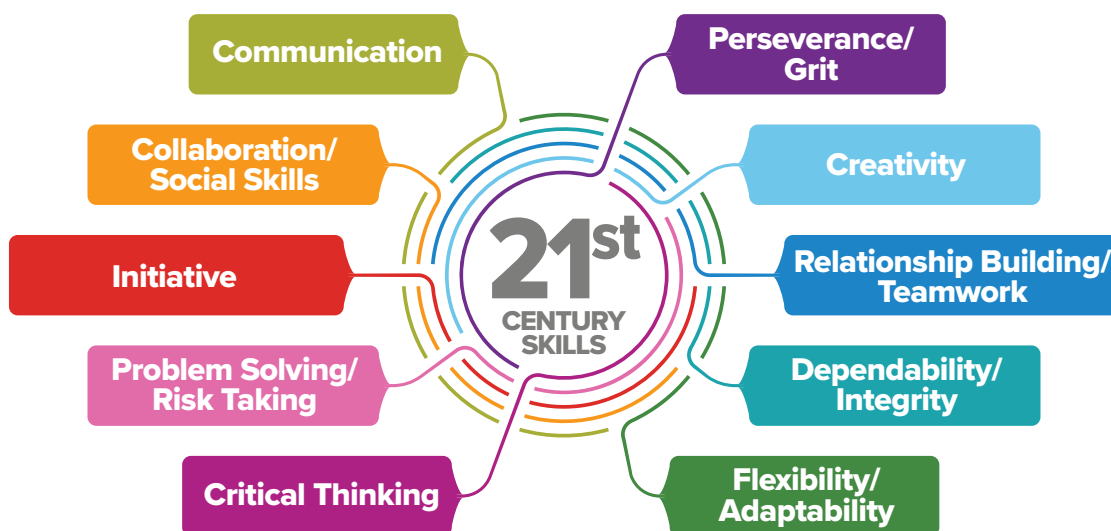
Questions? Visit the **TEAMS website** for more information or email **Amber Williams**.

LEADERSHIP

Students are increasingly expected to gain competencies they will need to navigate a changing world—skills such as problem solving, critical thinking, and collaboration. These skills are often referred to as “21st century skills,” “soft skills,” or “deeper learning.”

Acquiring 21st century leadership skills is critical to the success of young people. TSA members have access to invaluable leadership opportunities – through TSA’s competitive events, resources, and activities – that help develop these skills.

TSA Leadership and 21st Century Skills



The inclusion of 21st century skills development into TSA’s program of competitions and activities encourages students to be engaged TSA members as they seek understanding about themselves and knowledge about TSA and their community. Leadership and 21st century skills are inherent in each TSA competitive event and in resources such as TSA Voices and the TSA Achievement Program, Pathways to Excellence.





TSA Voices: A Podcast Series

TSA Voices: A Podcast Series features individuals from the TSA community who reflect on TSA's program of competitions and activities, leadership, and their TSA journey. Each episode spotlights a 21st century leadership skill – such as collaboration, adaptability, or communication – and its specific importance in the individual's TSA experience and beyond.

View a summary of the seasons of the [podcast series](#) and access the episodes.



TSA Achievement Program, Pathways to Excellence

The TSA Achievement Program, Pathways to Excellence promotes service leadership, STEM immersion, and personal/professional development in middle school and high school members through involvement in STEM-based activities. Specifically, the program aims to:

- engage members at the local, state, and national levels
- facilitate opportunities for members to gain 21st century leadership skills, and use and expand their knowledge and skills of technology and engineering education
- recognize the efforts of members to attain bronze, silver, and gold level awards through participation in the program

Visit the TSA website for more information about the [TSA Achievement Program](#).

NATIONAL SERVICE PROJECT: AMERICAN RED CROSS

TSA's national service project partner is the American Red Cross..

The Red Cross prepares for and responds to local, state, national, and international emergencies. Partnering with the Red Cross provides a unique opportunity for TSA

members to apply their leadership, organizational, and STEM skills to help the Red Cross make a real difference in communities – through efforts to support disaster relief, promote health and safety, and help those in need.

Information about TSA and the Red Cross can be found on the [TSA website](#).



American Red Cross

NATIONAL TECHNICAL HONOR SOCIETY (NTHS)

Since 1984, the National Technical Honor Society (NTHS) has been the honor society for Career and Technical Education (CTE), serving high schools, career centers, community and technical colleges, and universities. Recognizing over 60,000 new members and awarding nearly \$300,000 in scholarships annually, NTHS exists to advocate for and empower all students to pursue the technical and academic skills needed to build their careers and a skilled global workforce. NTHS achieves this through career development, leadership development, service, and recognition opportunities. TSA and NTHS have a partnership to provide these benefits to TSA members.

Learn more about the National Technical Honor Society at [NTHS.org](#).



NATIONAL TSA OFFICERS



TSA, INC. BOARD OF DIRECTORS



NATIONAL TSA STAFF



2027 NATIONAL TSA CONFERENCE

June 23 – 27, 2027 • Rosen Shingle Creek • Orlando, Florida

An award-winning, four-diamond hotel, the Rosen Shingle Creek welcomes back the Technology Student Association for the 2027 National TSA Conference. The Rosen Shingle Creek features multiple outdoor pools, a championship golf course, a full-service spa, walking trails, and many other amenities.

The Rosen Shingle Creek is nestled on a 230-acre site along Shingle Creek, just 10 minutes away from the Orlando International Airport. The resort is near many of Orlando's best attractions, restaurants, and shopping and entertainment venues.

The 2027 National TSA Conference will be held June 23rd-June 27th. In this timeframe TSA members can take advantage of leadership opportunities, participate in competitive events, network with fellow TSA members, and build memories that will last a lifetime. Start making plans now to visit Orlando, Florida for the 2027 National TSA Conference.



Conference Theme
“FORWARD TO FIFTY”



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