PURPOSES OF STUDENT REPRESENTATION

• Students bring a new perspective to PTA/PTSA ideas and programs.
• Viewpoints and ideas of students are essential because all PTA/PTSA programs focus on youth.
• Students and adults obtain a better understanding and appreciation of one another by working side by side on goal-related projects.
• Students gain leadership skills, such as goal-setting, decision-making, team building and conflict resolution while enhancing their own personal growth and development.
• Students obtain community service opportunities for high school credit. Active PTA/PTSA involvement is an excellent addition to any college or job application.
• Students are introduced to the legislative process and the importance of advocating for a cause through PTA’s involvement in legislative activities.
• Student voices can be heard by elected representatives before the students reach voting age.
• Students provide PTA/PTSA with information regarding student interests and concerns thereby enhancing relevance and effectiveness of PTA/PTSA programs.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

• Refer to Student Involvement Templates in figures 3-9, 3-10, and 3-11 of the California State PTA Toolkit for ideas for involving students in elementary, middle and high school activities.
• Become a full voting member of your PTA/PTSA upon payment of membership dues.
• Become a member of your PTA/PTSA executive board (as an elected officer, chairman or in a committee position). California Corporations Code and civil laws allow students to serve in any PTA/PTSA office. All officers, adults and students alike, must perform duties of the office as outlined in the PTA/PTSA bylaws and the California State PTA Toolkit.
• Attend all PTA/PTSA meetings.
• Communicate with board members about your other important commitments such as family, schoolwork, household chores and part-time job.
• Practice effective positive communication skills. Help create an atmosphere of mutual respect between students and adults in order to communicate the needs, desires and concerns of fellow students.
• Interact with peers and other school organizations/clubs to plan programs and activities that will enhance the atmosphere on your campus and create a more positive learning environment for all.
• Represent students and PTSA at school board and other civic meetings, wherever student input is needed or requested.
• Show other potential student members how PTA/PTSA activities relate to special interests such as art, music, writing, conservation and legislation.
• Stress the following basic benefits:
  – Improving the school and community;
  – Being with friends;
  – Learning new life skills;
  – Participating in a goal-oriented team; and
  – Having a voice in issues that affect youth.

SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES

• Plan an orientation for new students.
• Sponsor a school-wide “spring clean-up day.”
• Participate as a PTA/PTSA in a community service project, such as volunteering at a shelter or soup kitchen.
• Participate as a PTA/PTSA in statewide, national and world observance days.
• Become involved in legislative issues and activities.
• Participate in the National PTA Reflections Program.
• Participate in a celebration honoring all volunteers and their commitment to PTA/PTSA.
• Accept nomination to the nominating committee.
• Participate in planning next year’s activities.
• Help choose the next year’s membership theme.
• Schedule a college application entrance exam preparation night.
• Apply for a California State PTA Graduating High School Senior Scholarship.
• Apply for PTA Spotlight Award based on activities related to student involvement or student recruitment.
• Be a delegate to the California State PTA convention.
• Encourage student delegates to the California State PTA convention to attend the district PTA orientation.
• Apply for a student board member position on the California State PTA Board of Managers (students between the ages of 16-21 are eligible).*

*Applications are available from the district PTA president or California State PTA office.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

National PTA website, www.pta.org
California PTA website, www.capta.org

1/2011