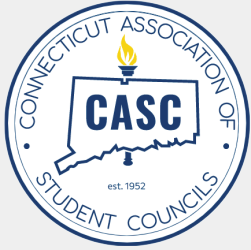


CASC Advisors Planner

Official Newsletter of the Connecticut Association of Student Councils



Inside this Issue...

Director's Corner..... 2

From the Executive Board.
3

The 2024-25 Executive
Board..... 5

Program Updates..... 8

Districts in Action..... 9

CTRISES:: Project Ideas12

Tips and Tools..... 14

Upcoming Events..... 15

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CT 06410



Director's Corner

I will keep my remarks short this month as it is already a long enough newsletter!

I would like to once again offer a special thank you to our retiring Executive Board. This dynamic group of students has brought an amazing level of energy to the Executive Board and their knowledge, experiences and perspectives will be missed. This past Saturday was their final regularly scheduled meeting with their terms coming to an end on May 1st.

I would also like to offer my congratulations to our newly appointed Executive Board Staff that were confirmed at this past Saturday's Board meeting. You will be able to read more about them in the Executive Board section of the newsletter.

Our association's next event is "**Adventures in Leadership**," which is held annually at Winding Trails in Farmington. This year is particularly exciting as we are offering a high ropes course for the first time in addition to our usual afternoon Boat Building activities. You can read more about this event in our Program Updates section below.

Be safe, and as always thank you for your continued support of CASC and its mission of building up student leadership in Connecticut. Remember to stay above the line!

Christopher Tomlin
CASC Executive Director

Upcoming State Important Dates::

APRIL

April 10:: Start and Spark Session #3 (HS/MS)

This is the third and last in our virtual advisor get together event series. We will be focusing on end of year ideas and summer activities.

April 17:: CASC's 72nd Birthday

April 22-26:: National Student Leadership Week

Sponsored by NASSP, you can find out more details here <https://www.studentleadershipweek.org/>

MAY

May 22 - CASC "Adventures in Leadership," (HS/MS)

Ropes course designed to allow your newly elected leaders an opportunity to come together and begin to work as a team, while meeting leaders from across the state.

From the Executive Board



State President

Hello Connecticut (one last time),

As I sit down to write this farewell message, I am feeling the nostalgia, reminding me of the remarkable journey we've undertaken together through CASC. It feels like just yesterday that I embarked on this adventure, starting as Legislative Affairs Coordinator, fresh out of my freshman year, filled with enthusiasm and a drive to make a difference.

Now, as a two term President, reflecting on my time with CASC, I am truly astounded by the growth and evolution we've witnessed, particularly in our annual conventions. I'll never forget my first convention – a virtual gathering where we huddled together for a watch party at Woodland with Notre Dame. Fast forward to today, and we immerse leaders in the exciting atmosphere of an in-person event with over 100 attendees, a testament to the extraordinary transformation we've undergone. Similarly, I've watched Mock Legislative Day evolve from a humble breakout room exercise during our virtual convention to an official day at Connecticut's Capitol with the Connecticut General Assembly, where students now engage with multiple bills, making meaningful contributions to the legislative process.

None of these achievements would have been possible without the support and dedication of our board members, advisors, and, of course, our executive director, Mr. Tomlin. Your guidance has been invaluable, shaping not only my journey but the journeys of countless others within CASC. To each of you, I extend my deepest gratitude for your tireless efforts. I must also acknowledge the outstanding efforts of the Woodland Convention Committee, whose dedication and hard work have brought the event to fruition live at Woodland for the last two years. Your commitment to CASC and CTRISES is truly commendable.

As I look ahead, I can't help but feel an overwhelming sense of excitement for what the future holds for CASC. The expansion of our reach, whether through our website ctstuco.com or our TikTok @ctstuco, represents our future of more growth. For me, CASC has been more than just an extracurricular activity; it has been a tight-knit community, imparting invaluable life skills that I will carry with me into the future.

As I prepare to bid farewell to this chapter of my life, I am filled with joy knowing that the legacy of CASC will continue to flourish under the amazing leadership of the student leaders who will carry the torch forward.

In closing, I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to each and every one of you for being a part of this incredible journey. From Adventures in Leadership at Winding Trails, an opportunity to lead with nature, to our newest Mental Health Night, a time to wind down with other leaders, CASC has been an excellent experience. I am honored to have been a part of such a remarkable community. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Yasmeen Galal '24
Woodland Regional High School

Legislative Affairs Coordinator

We had a very exciting convention featuring four of the six Connecticut Constitutional Officers, where students had the opportunity to engage in open discourse with some of the leaders of Connecticut State Government. As I reach the end of my tenure as Legislative Affairs Coordinator, I am thrilled to welcome in the next generation of CASC Board Members and especially our new Legislative Affairs Coordinator, Naseera Yusuf. I've been working diligently to prepare Naseera for her new role and help facilitate a successful 2024 Mock Legislative Day, and I am thrilled to see what she'll be able to accomplish in this position.

Charli Hughes '24
Woodland Regional High School
legaffairscommitteecasc@gmail.com

Student Workshop Coordinator

Facilitation 1 and 2 created a common knowledge among all workshop presenters so they could have the best tools to create their workshops. Our biggest takeaway was to always have a back-up plan. I want to thank Sandra Sirota, the director of UCONN's Human Rights program for her engaging presentation. At convention we had a range of presentations that hit each part of CTRISES. We have also received a lot of feedback from convention and will be working to implement new ideas for Convention 2025. It has been an amazing experience serving as the CASC workshops coordinator.

Jenaris Belgrave
CIBA

The 2024-25 Executive Board

State President - Kaltrina Ameti '25, Woodland Regional H.S.



Hey Connecticut!

My name is Kaltrina Ameti and I am CASC president for the 2024-25' school year! I am a current junior, rising senior at Woodland Regional High School where I am one of Region 16's student Board of Education Representatives. At Woodland, I am also the Junior Captain of our Math Team, Secretary of DECA, and am an active member in various honor societies. As CASC President I plan on rebuilding some of our yearly events, as well as adding new ones to the mix. More information will be coming soon! I look forward to being your CASC President this year!

Fun Fact: I am bi-lingual

Convention Chair - Avangeline Magi '26, Woodland Regional H.S.



Avangeline Magi is in the class of 2026. She attends Woodland Regional High School in Beacon Falls. She is a current Senator on her school's student government. Avangeline is a part of the Committee on Service to School and Community and she enjoys it. Avangeline is a part of her school's indoor and outdoor track teams. She is involved with her school's kindness club and strongly believes that everyone should be treated with kindness. She plans to pursue a career in Architecture. Avangeline is very excited to show kindness and great leadership to the people around her in the future.

A fun fact about yourself:: I love to read all kinds of books.

Secretary-Treasurer - Tosh Brown '27, Bulkeley H.S.



Tosh Brown serves as the Secretary for Bulkeley's student council. She has many experiences within the community of Hartford which incorporates her giving back to those who are in need. "I'm so excited to work with the rest of the members on the CASC board! I look forward to being Secretary Treasurer, and a new member of the team!"

Middle School Liaison - Neilly Dean Erlandson '31



I am a sixth grader at Nathan Hale-Ray Middle School where I take on leadership roles in different places. In class, I help my classmates learn and work together to create projects. When I play sports, I help my teammates grow and understand the game. In the Student Council, I speak up for other students and make our school better by organizing fun events and listening to everyone's ideas. In my free time, I like to Irish Step, hunt, and play softball. I love having the opportunity to lead because I can make things happen while working together with my peers.

STAFF

Parliamentarian - Kassie Bailey '26



My name is Kassie Bailey and I have been elected as the Parliamentarian for CASC for the 2024-2025 term. I am currently a student at Woodland Regional High School and have prior experience as a Parliamentarian in my school's student government. As the newly elected Parliamentarian, my goal is to promote the use of parliamentary procedure among student councils throughout the state. My aim is to bridge the gap between CASC and individual councils by increasing parliamentary knowledge and understanding of the procedure.

A fun fact about yourself:: In my free-time I enjoy learning how to play the electric guitar

Historian/Archivist - Samhitha Kunichetty '25



Samhitha Kunichetty is a junior at Fairfield Ludlowe High School. She has been in Falcon Council (Ludlowe's Student Government) for three years and VP of Communications for two, where she organizes and promotes student events. She also loves music: she has played the cello for 8 years and has been in choir for 7 years. Other ways she gets involved with her community is through her role as Co-Chair of STEM in the Fairfield Public Library Teen Council, where she volunteers and runs teen programs. Some other things she is passionate about are engineering and creative writing!

Student Workshop Coordinator - Jannah Sallam '26



My name is Jannah Sallam, and I am currently a sophomore at the Connecticut IB Academy. Ever since my freshman year at CIBA, I have been an active member of my school's student advisory board. I was elected this year as sophomore representative, and have prioritized leadership since. Despite being representative for less than a year, I carry out my role by listening to my peers and informing them of any school events. I make sure their voices are heard and report any of their ideas and concerns back to the student councils. I am passionate about contributing more to my school's SC/G and hope to aid in positively impacting student councils statewide.

A fun fact about yourself: I like to play tennis!

Legislative Affairs Coordinator - Naseera Yusuf '27



As I transitioned from middle to high school, I knew that I was ready to take on new challenges and responsibilities that would help me grow as a person. I was eager to start high school as I knew it would provide opportunities to explore the real world and help me find my rightful place in it. Participating in Student Government and engaging in school activities excited me even more. Being a leader and bringing happiness to others is what motivates me most. I aim to do my best and be efficient in any role I may take on.

Service Project Coordinator - Maia Simoes '27



Maia Simoes is currently a Freshman at Woodland Regional High School in Beacon Falls. She is a senator in her school's Student Government organization. She is a part of the Committee of School Spirit and has helped organize school events. She also participates in competitive gymnastics, as well as her school's Math Team, Book Club, Kindness Club, and school store. She is ambitious, hard-working, optimistic, and organized. Maia enjoys creating, organizing, and getting involved in service projects, especially ones that benefit the community and environment. Maia has many service projects planned for the future.

Mental Health Affairs Coordinator - Sam Ramasubramaniam '26



My name is Sam Ramasubramaniam and I am Sophomore at the Connecticut IB Academy in East Hartford. Student government is a big part of my life and I am very passionate about being a leader. I love helping others and am proud to work with students from across the state!

A fun fact about yourself:: My favorite food are strawberries!

Program Updates

ADVENTURES IN LEADERSHIP!

Wednesday, May 22, 2024 9:00AM to 2:00 PM,

Winding Trails, Farmington.

(Check ctstuco.com for schedule and more details)

Please join us for a day of low ropes courses, team building, a raft building contest and other activities to prepare your student leaders for next year. Lunch included! \$25.00 per person

HIGH and LOW ROPES COURSE:

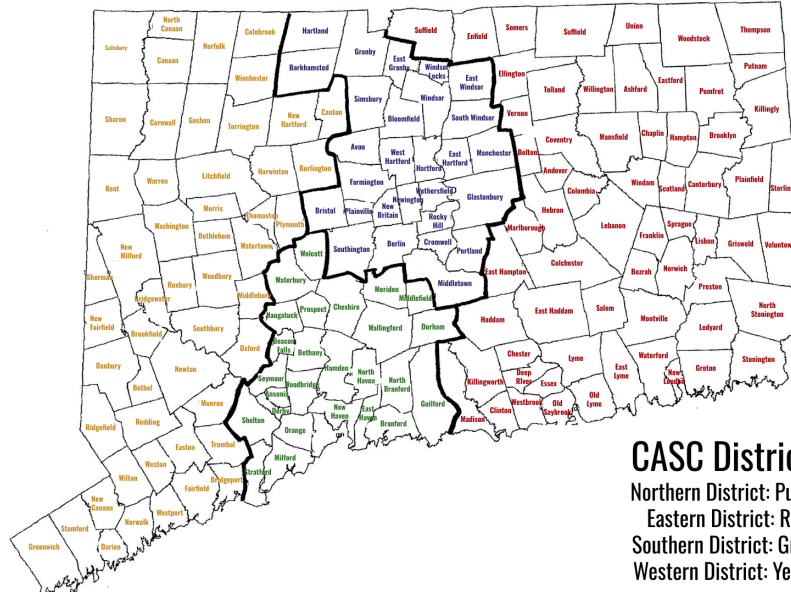
The program concentrates on group skill development that involves physical and emotional risk and the opportunity to succeed within a supportive group atmosphere. The Low Ropes Course is composed of over 30 different elements including a series of challenges using props such as: wooden platforms, boards, ropes and cables designed for group participation regardless of physical limitation and ability level. Participants develop skills in problem solving, communication, decision making, trust, as well as a strong sense of self-worth and accomplishment.

RAFT BUILDING CHALLENGE:

Try something new while testing your skills and buoyancy. This is a great group activity to work on communication and leadership. This challenge will break up into teams and attempt to build the perfect craft to carry your team out onto Dunning Lake and back.

[REGISTER NOW ON CTSTUCO.COM](http://CTSTUCO.COM)

Districts in Action



CASC Districts
Northern District: Purple
Eastern District: Red
Southern District: Green
Western District: Yellow

Highlighting the work of local SC/Gs

Northern District - CIBA

*Thierry Ofori '24, Vice President;
Buckle Buck '27, District Coordinator;
Rachel Buck, District Advisor*



DISTRICT UPDATE:: From March onwards, our district has achieved significant milestones and garnered notable recognitions! Our success at the annual Convention, including securing victory in the Pep Rally for the second consecutive year, highlights our district's spirited camaraderie. We extend heartfelt congratulations to Jayda McMerley, President of the CIBA Student Advisory Board, for receiving the prestigious Dale Hawley Award, recognizing her outstanding leadership and capabilities. Additionally, CIBA was recognized as a Gold Council of

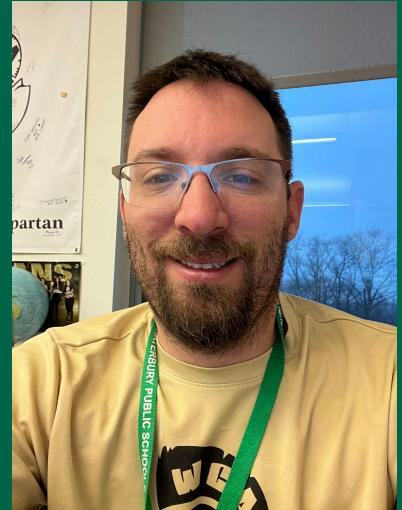
Excellence! CIBA also had their Community Building Day recognized as a Top Project across Connecticut. We warmly welcome our new district members and express gratitude to outgoing board members for their dedicated service. Finally, CIBA celebrated the Night of a Thousand Dinners, fostering community and supporting charitable causes.

Southern District - WCA, Waterbury

Randy Ramdin '25, Vice President;

Ryan Cogovan '25, District Coordinator;

John O'Toole, District Advisor



District Members:

Amity, Ansonia, Branford, Bunnell, Cheshire, Coginchaug, Cooperative Arts And Humanities, Crosby, Derby, East Haven, Eli Whitney Tech, Emmet O'Brien Tech, Engineering and Science University Magnet, Foran, Guilford, Hamden, High School In The Community, Hill Regional Career Magnet, Hillhouse, Holy Cross, John F. Kennedy, Jonathan Law, Kaynor Tech, Lauralton Hall, Lyman Hall, Maloney, Mark T. Sheehan, Metropolitan Business Academy, Naugatuck, New Haven Academy Magnet, North Branford, North Haven, Notre Dame-West Haven, Orville H. Platt, Platt Tech, Riverside Academy, Sacred Heart Academy, Seymour, Shelton, Sound School, Stratford, Waterbury Career, West Haven, Wilbur Cross, Wilby, Wilcox Tech, Wolcott, Woodland Regional

Eastern District - NFA

*Elya Anor '25, Vice President;
Kinnick Campbell '26, District Coordinator;
Lorraine Dooley, Advisor*



The Student Advisory Board held a Voter Registration Drive on February 29 and registered 100 new voters! The League of Women Voters was present to provide educational materials to interested students and both of the registrars from the city of Norwich helped students with the process.

Western District - Thomaston High School

*Alyssa O'Brien '26, Vice President;
Emily Morton '25, District Coordinator;
Terri Franzi, District Advisor*



The Western District was very thrilled with the participation from the district at the Annual CASC Convention! Although only having a few schools attend, we were able to get insights on how to plan for future Western District events. As a district, we were able to encourage others to have a role in their student council.

CTRISES:: Project Ideas

CTRISES:: Ideas for April

Remember to be focusing on your **C**(citizenship), **T**(training), **R**(recognition), **I**(inspiration), **S**(service), **E**(engagement), **S**(spirit). Looking for a new project to run this month in your student council/government? Think about incorporating some of these suggestions into your calendar.

CITIZENSHIP

Elections

Organize the election for next year's SCG members and Officers. Be sure to include elements found in real elections including:: written election rules and/or campaign procedures; a written process for ballot counting; voter registration; designated election places; campaign activities; and voting stickers.

RECOGNITION

Administrative Professionals Day

Administrative Professionals Day is April 27. It's fun to tell them how thankful we are for all that they do. Surprise them by leaving baskets on each of their desks. Things to include:: candy, mints, life savers, tissues, and punny inspirational messages!

April 22-26:: National Student Leadership Week

Sponsored by NASSP, you can find out more details here <https://www.studentleadershipweek.org/>

INSPIRATION

Participate in National Student Leadership Week

National Student Leadership Week (NSLW) 2022 will occur April 24–30 and celebrate this year's theme, "Trailblazing Leadership."

Visit www.studentleadershipweek.org for special activity ideas, suggested social media posts, and resources to help you continue to honor student leadership. Check #NSLW2022 on social media for

more ideas and inspiration.

SERVICE

Campus Cleanup

April 22 is Earth Day, many schools celebrate by sponsoring school wide campus cleanups. This can be used as an opportunity for your SCG to come together and do some team building or Service learning. Invite your town Director of Parks to give a talk about service learning.

ENGAGEMENT

Secret Agents of Kindness Program for Schools

The idea behind Secret Kindness Agents is to change school culture by having students and teachers perform anonymous acts of kindness every day for a week. At the end of the week, they write reflections on how their kindness has affected them and those around them. They then select new acts of kindness for the next week and begin the process again, thereby spreading kindness throughout the school community. Research shows numerous positive effects on the students, teachers and school climate.

SPIRIT

Movie Night

Hold an all school movie night with a theme. For example, watch a football movie on the football field or watch "Jaws" in the swimming pool.

CTRISES:: Ideas for May

CITIZENSHIP

Last Meeting

Begin with an agenda and consider adding these items::

- Consider farewell speeches for the Seniors.
- Provide an opportunity for Seniors to say goodbyes.
- Plan your summer meetings
- Reflect on the past year. Were the goals you set at the start of the year achieved?
- Discuss committees, should they be changed? reorganized?

RECOGNITION

Teacher Appreciation Week

Teacher Appreciation Week is May 2-6. It's fun to tell them how thankful we are for all that they do. Surprise them by leaving baskets on each of their desks. Things to include:: candy, mints, life savers, tissues, and punny inspirational messages!

INSPIRATION

Student Leadership Awards

With the year ending it is time to think about awards for your student leaders. Rookie of the Year, Outstanding Senior, etc.

SERVICE

Town Wide Cleanup

May is a great time to cleanup your local green space or your schools campus. Look to involve the local Town Parks and Recreation department.

ENGAGEMENT

**We are always looking for new and exciting projects or events to highlight, if your council has a project that you would like to see highlighted in a newsletter please submit it [here](#).

Grim Reaper Day

This program was developed by SADD. Every 33 minutes, a gong will sound over the PA system and the grim reaper will enter a classroom and pull a selected student from the class. Each victim's face will be painted white and have one teardrop outlined on his/her face. The victims will be "dead" for the rest of the day and cannot speak to anyone.

SPIRIT

Sidewalk Chalk

Use chalk on the sidewalks of all entryways of your school to say goodbye and good luck to the seniors. If possible write it in areas that the seniors will walk on while heading to graduation.

Sunset/End of School Activities

Does your council have any end of school activities for the student body? If not consider these::

- Decorate the school on the last day of school with banners and streamers in your school colors.
- Put cutouts on the lockers of the seniors for their post high school plans (college logo, military branch, or if undecided put a diploma.).
- Leave treats for teachers in their mailboxes.
- Have your student council members and the school band outside to Say goodbye to the busses on the last day of school.
- Holding "Minute To Win It" competitions during lunch waves.
- A pre exam pep rally.

Tips and Tools

Elections - a Civics Learning Experience

Adopted from "Focus" April 1988

Any election should teach democratic processes to students. Elections should be a learning experience in citizenship. The democratic process includes ways for candidates to announce their campaign to meet voters.

Voter Registration

1. Arguments for and against.
 - a. When a student registers for school, that is automatically a voter registration.
 - b. Registration sign-up is educational and a real world experience as it is optional.
2. Procedures for registration.
 - a. Google forms
 - b. Signup by homeroom/advisory with names printed and signatures collected.
 - c. Takes a huge campaign to get students to register

Petitions - a predetermined number of signatures is needed for a name to be added to a ballot.

1. Petitions force a commitment from a candidate.
2. Petitions force a candidate to ask for support from fellow students.
3. Petitions include:
 - a. Name of candidate
 - b. Office sought
 - c. Blanks for the right number of students to sign
 - d. Approval of teachers, parents
 - e. Counselors approval
 - f. Office approval.
4. Get a place to give out petitions.
 - a. Elections commission table at lunch
 - b. SC/ G advisor
5. Stick to your deadlines!
6. Check petitions for accuracy
 - a. Office sought

- b. Right number of student signatures, no repetition
 - c. Approval of teachers
 - d. Counselor's approval
 - e. Office approval
 - f. Parents' approval.
7. List of candidates
 - a. Use a google sheet that the school can see BUT NOT EDIT!
 - b. Qualifications checklist
 - c. Know/ shows how many positions are available

Meeting of Candidates

1. Election rules are clearly understood
2. Rules should include:
 - a. Those listed in the Constitution including Voting method (FPP, STV/RTV) tie breaking procedures.
 - b. Absentee/ early voting policy, if you have one.
 - c. Rules for campaign materials
 - i. Cost
 - ii. Number, size, place
 - iii. Use of school supplies
3. Length of campaign
 - a. Removal of campaign materials
 - b. Penalties for non-adherence to rules
 - c. Assembly with speeches OR pre recorded speeches sent to homerooms
4. Voting Procedures
 - a. When will students be able to vote?
 - b. Where will students be able to vote?
 - c. How will students be able to vote?
 - i. Paper ballots
 - ii. Voting Machines
 - iii. Google Form
 - iv. Other
5. Results
 - a. When/ how they will be announced. (will voting numbers be included or just winners?)

Upcoming Events

Be sure to check the CASC Website (CTStuco.com) for a full calendar of our program and more information!

APRIL

April 10:: Start and Spark Session #3 (HS/MS)

This is the third and last in our virtual advisor get together event series. We will be focusing on end of year ideas and summer activities.

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MAY

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Ropes course designed to allow your newly elected leaders an opportunity to come together and begin to work as a team, while meeting leaders from across the state. Register on <https://ctstuco.com>

JUNE

June 21-23 - 2024 VISION National Student Leadership Conference (HS/MS)

<https://stucovisionconference.org/>

2024-25 SCHOOL YEAR

SEPTEMBER

September 25:: President's Symposium, LIVE (HS/MS)

The President's Symposium serves as a launchpad for upcoming CASC activities and opportunities. This year's Symposium will be returning to a live format all advisors and student council/ government leadership team members are invited to attend. More details to follow!

OCTOBER

October TBD:: Student Workshop Presenter Training (HS)

CASC is proud to provide this new certified training program for student presenters.

October 1:: Start and Spark (HS/MS)

Welcome back virtual advisors meeting., VIRTUAL Meeting 7:00-7:40

NOVEMBER

November TBD:: NatStuCo LEAD Conference, Washington D.C.(HS/MS)

Leadership, Experience, And Development for students and advisers—that's what LEAD conferences are all about. The premier national conference for student leaders and the educators who support them, LEAD is a program of the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP). <https://lead.nassp.org/>

November 12 - Start and Spark (HS/MS)

Dances and Spirit, VIRTUAL Meeting 7:00-7:40

November 13 -17:: CASC District Conference, Virtual (HS/MS)

Each of Connecticut's 4 districts holds its own conference that will allow for local students and advisors to connect, build relationships and share ideas. More details to follow.

DECEMBER

December 1-3:: NA4SA (NAWD) Annual National Conference on Student Activities (HS/MS)

Check www.nawd.com for more details as we get closer to this event.

December TBD:: Mock Legislative Session Day (HS)

Mock Legislative Session Day is an opportunity for student council/government members from across Connecticut to work with the Connecticut General Assembly staff and legislators to learn how a bill becomes a law. Students will experience the committee and public hearing process, bill analysis, fiscal analysis, and the process of putting a bills intentions into legal language, in preparation for Mock Session where students will debate their mock legislation on the House Floor.

This is an incredible educational experience giving student council/government members the opportunity to gain a better understanding of the legislative process in a hands-on way.