

CASC Advisors Planner

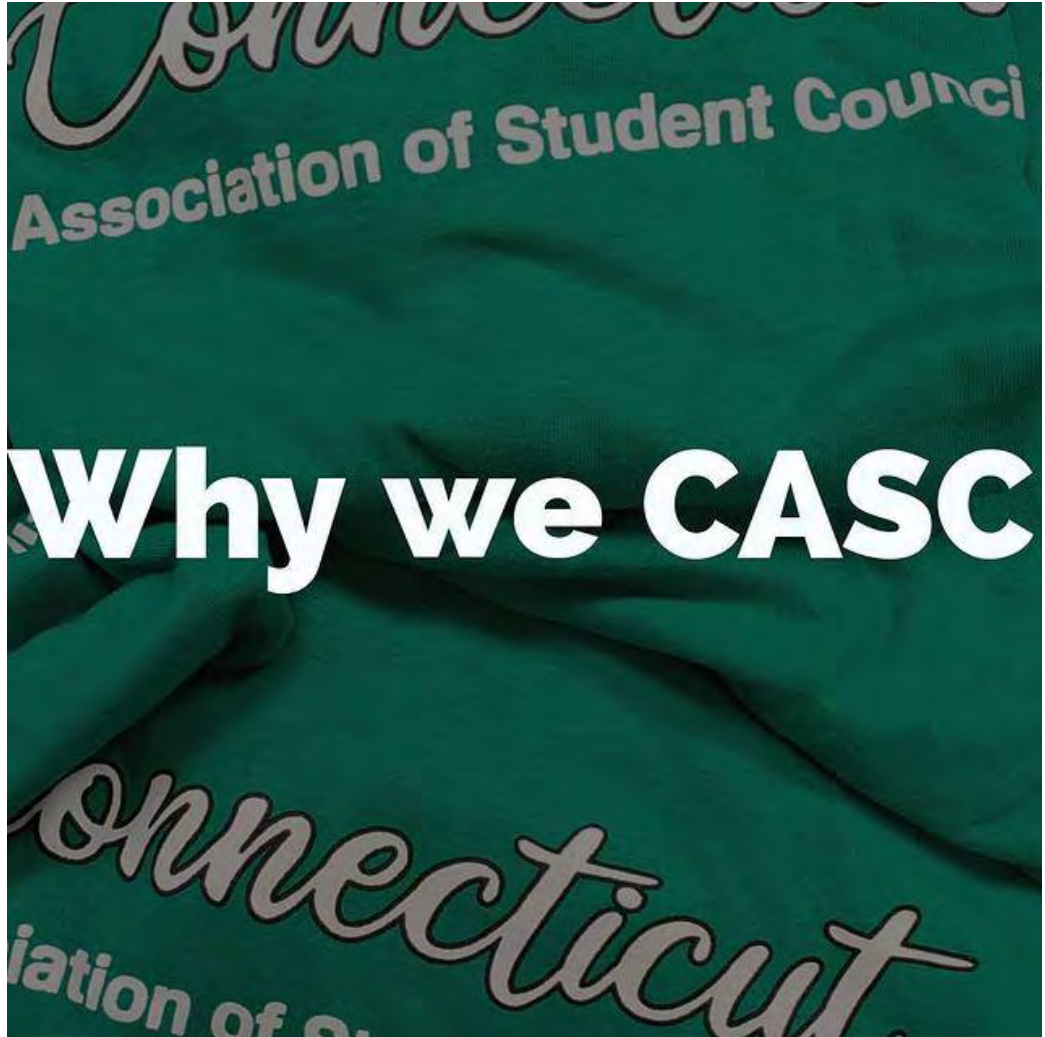
Official Newsletter of the Connecticut Association of Student Councils



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Director's Corner

A belated happy Election Day, and end of the Academic 1st Quarter! Yay we made it!!

I would like to begin by thanking those of you who joined us at the Advisors training session last week. It was a rewarding night with national presenters who came with a wealth of information and insight. Our next virtual Advisors meeting will be in December. A couple quick updates::

CASC has reorganized. At the October Board meeting CASC voted to split the Central District into two smaller districts. This was done even out the sizes of each district so that we can begin to grow connections between the schools. North West Catholic High School will complete its two year term as the leadership school for the new Northern district. Notre Dame of West Haven has volunteered to serve as the leadership school for the newly created Southern District. Please check the districts page to see if your district has changed.

Service project! Our State Wide Service Project "*CASC Caring for Connecticut*" has officially launched. Check the update from our State Service Project Director for more information, the pledge sheet and a tutorial video.

District Meetings The district leadership schools have been working very hard to get ready to host the first district meetings which will be happening next month. You should be receiving messages from your leadership school in the coming weeks with more information.

Be safe, and as always thank you for your continued support of Student Leadership in Connecticut.

Christopher Tomlin
CASC Executive Director

Upcoming State Important Dates::

November 1:: CASC Service Project pledge form and video tutorial.

From the Student Executive Board

Caring for Connecticut - State Service Project

Abby Messina, CASC Service Project Director

Caring for Connecticut is CASC's year long service project. It will include a year-long blanket initiative and two month-long projects: friendship bracelets in April and appreciation cards in January. Every month, 3,000 babies are born in Connecticut hospitals. The blanket initiative aims for CASC-associated schools to create 3,000 blankets for local hospitals. Every district will have a designated hospital for blanket delivery. Blankets should be about 30" x 30", and scrap fabric can be purchased for 50% off at many craft stores, such as Joann Fabric. Respond to the [pledge form](#) to help with the blanket initiative. [Here is an informative video to help make the blankets](#). The friendship bracelet initiative will take place in April, and students across the state will make friendship bracelets for children in Connecticut hospitals. For the appreciation card initiative, students will create appreciation cards for frontline workers in hospitals across the state.

State Awards Program

CASC Council of Excellence Award.

Has been designated to recognize and reward the achievements of outstanding Student Councils or Student Governments in our state association. This award has been created as a way of providing encouragement and support to SCGs, as well as to provide standards of effective student leadership. To be eligible, your school must provide information related to your SCG operations, fundraising, communications, service learning, etc.

Top 10 Projects Award.

The top 10 project awards recognize Student Councils/Governments across Connecticut that have established a group project to better themselves, their community, or other communities. If your SCG is selected as a Top 10 Project, your SCG will be invited to present at our Spring Convention and receive recognition for your project. Submissions for this award will include a simple application, description of your project, and a 300 word essay about why your project should be considered for the award.

Dale Hawley Award

Individual student leadership contributions at the state level will be recognized this year through the Dale Hawley award. Dale D Hawley's life was dedicated to youth, service and the development of student leaders, as a principal and director of the National Association of Student Councils. This award is given based on nominations. If you have a student leader who exemplifies these values be sure to nominate them for this award.

The Ron Nedovich Advisor of the Year Award

This award is given in memory of the former Executive Director of Connecticut Association of Student Councils. Mr. Nedovich recognized the importance of leadership education, and development for all students. This award is to be given to one outstanding advisor, and will recognize the many contributions that advisors have made all over the state.

The District Project Award

This award was created to further foster collaboration among the districts. This award centers around district collaboration on projects related to service. It will function on two levels: first level will be a competition against schools within districts to choose a service project idea. The winning school will be the representative of the district on the next level where districts will compete to win the district project award title. Districts MUST work together to

complete this project and should show proof. The winning district project and overall winning district will receive recognition.

CASC Seal Redesign Contest

To help celebrate 70 years of CASC, we are looking for your help in designing a new Seal that will be used by CASC in a variety of mediums. The design must have a reference to Connecticut. It must also incorporate the phrase "CASC" or "Connecticut Association of Student Council." We want to stress that the design cannot violate copyright laws or include any watermarked logos, quotes or images. It also does not matter if the design is computer generated or hand drawn. This design must fit on t-shirts, pins, flyers, and social media platforms. If you are interested in submitting, you must submit it digitally with your name, school, advisor, and a brief description of the design. The winner of the contest will be voted on at the 2022 Spring Convention. We hope that you consider sending in your designs!

[Logo Contest Flyer](#)

[Submission Form](#)

[Rules and Guidelines](#)

CT General Assembly Update

Yasmeen Galal, CASC Legislative Affairs Director

CASC is excited to be working on several new legislative projects! Throughout breakout sessions at the Presidential Symposium we held, students discussed the changes they wanted to see in their lives, especially in education. We are taking action on students' voices. Therefore, we are writing legislation on the following topics students discussed: Delaying high school start times/swapping elementary school and high school start times, equity in the number of times students take the SAT, waiving P.E. credit requirements for student athletes, increasing the minimum required lunch time, and implementing crucial life skills into curriculums. Student councils and governments will also be receiving a Google Form where they can submit legislative changes they want to see at any time! Once Connecticut's legislative session resumes in February, these bills can potentially become laws!

Districts in Action

Please check the district lists below as some schools were moved in the recent realignment of the state.

Northern District - Northwest Catholic High School

Anna Callendrillo, Vice President; Lauren Armstrong, District Coordinator; Lorraine DeCrescenzo, Advisor

District Members:

Achievement First, Aerospace & Engineering, Avon, Berlin, Bloomfield, Bristol Central, Bristol Eastern, Bulkeley, Cheney Tech, Classical Magnet, Conard, Connecticut IB Academy, Cromwell, East Catholic, East Granby, East Hartford, East Windsor, Farmington, Glastonbury, Goodwin Tech, Granby Memorial, Hall, Hartford Magnet, Trinity College Academy, Hartford Public, Manchester, Mercy, Metropolitan Learning Center, Middletown, New Britain, Newington, Northwest Catholic, Plainville, Portland, Prince Tech, Rocky Hill, Science & Innovation, Simsbury, SMSA, South Windsor, Southington, St. Paul Catholic, University, Vinal Tech, Wethersfield, Windsor, Windsor Locks, Xavier

Eastern District - Bacon Academy

Matthew Kranc Vice President; Laney Barrett, District Coordinator; Thomas Frickman, Advisor

District Members: Academy of the Holy Family, Bacon Academy, Bolton, Coventry, Daniel Hand, East Hampton, East Lyme, Ellington, Ellis Tech, Enfield, EO Smith, Griswold, Grosso Tech, Haddam-Killingworth, Killingly, Ledyard, Lyman Memorial, Montville, Morgan, Nathan Hale Ray, New London, NFA, Norwich Tech, Old Lyme, Old Saybrook, Parish Hill, Plainfield, Public Safety Academy, Putnam, RHAM, Robert E. Fitch, Rockville, Somers, St. Bernard, Stafford, Stonington, Suffield, Tolland, Tourtellotte Memorial, Valley Regional, Waterford, Westbrook, Wheeler, Windham, Windham Tech, Woodstock Academy

Southern District - Notre Dame High School, West Haven

Jacob Bauer, Vice President; Cayden Drost, District Coordinator; Casey LaMonaca, 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, Luralton 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

Western District - Thomaston High School

Mel Shkrepi, Vice President; Hannah Lawlor, District Coordinator; Terri Franzi, Advisor

District Members: Bethel, Bridgeport Central, Brien McMahon, Brookfield, Bullard Havens Tech, Canton, Danbury, Darien, Fairfield College Preparatory School, Fairfield Ludlowe, Fairfield Warde, Gilbert, Greenwich, Henry Abbott Tech, Housatonic Regional, Immaculate, Joel Barlow, Kolbe Cathedral, Lewis Mills, Litchfield, Masuk, New Canaan, New Fairfield, New Milford, Newtown, Nonnewaug, Northwestern Regional, Norwalk, Notre Dame-Fairfield, Oxford, Pomperaug, Ridgefield, Shepaug Valley, St. Joseph's, Stamford, Staples, Terryville, Thomaston, Torrington, Trinity Catholic, Trumbull, Wamogo, Watertown, Westhill, Weston, Wilton, Wolcott Tech

CT RISES:: Ideas for November

Remember to be focusing on your CT(citizenship), 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

Get out the Vote activities

Hold mock elections the day before Election Day. This is also a great opportunity to look at how your Council holds elections. Do your elections include::

- Written election rules and/or campaign procedures
- A written process for ballot counting and announcing election results
- Use of voting machines or online voting, voter registration, voting precincts, or other characteristics of local/state elections

RECOGNITION

Teacher Appreciation Baskets

Its fun to tell teachers how thankful we are for them. November is a great time to put together baskets to leave in Teacher Centers or Teacher Lounges. Things to include:: hot chocolate mix, mints, life savers, tissues, and punny inspirational messages!

INSPIRATION

Thanksgiving Meeting Party:

Plan a thanksgiving party for the last day of school before break, have each member bring a food item that they eat on Thanksgiving. While everyone is eating have them share what they are thankful for. This is a great morale booster after homecoming season and allows the chance to reward your group's commitment with treats while they focus on what's ahead.

SERVICE

**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](#).

Visit Elderly

This is a great time of year to schedule some time to visit nursing homes to visit and interact with them. You can also host a "senior" prom complete with period music and food. You may want to try and get your school band to perform some of the standards.

ENGAGEMENT

Kindness Day

World Kindness Day is November 13, it is a day that promotes the importance of being kind to each other, to yourself, and to the world. Look for opportunities while you go through your day to infuse kindness into someone's day:

- Write positive messages on post-it notes and leave them for people to find
- Pick up trash you see on the ground outside and throw it in a garbage can
- Pay for a stranger's coffee or meal
- Compliment someone
- Send a positive or encouraging text to five people in your contacts
- Talk to someone new
- Practice gratitude

SPIRIT

Flag Football

Whether it is Powder Puff or another name, the November weather allows for one last outdoor activity of the year. In many schools this means a PowderPuff game with Junior and Seniors boys and girls. Some towns even compete against each other on these days.

Tips and Tools

POINTS

by Christopher Tomlin

As advisors we always struggle with member participation. How much do we expect our members to do? How do we reward those who do more? How do we hold those who do less accountable?

I have used a point system with my group since 2007. In those years since we first introduced it, it has gone through several iterations; there were times it was highly complex and specialized (You name it, it had a point total attached to it), there were times it was very simple and universal. Below is the system I use now with my group. Notice the titles of each section, as much as possible I use the NSC (National Student Council) language, in this case tenants, in all of my materials as a way to anchor our group to something larger, hence the titles for each section.

Service and Engagement - 20. The minimum amount of hours each member is required to work at Student Government projects. (setup/operating/cleanup) To earn these members must sign in AND sign out at the project. I round to the nearest half hour for this one and it usually isn't a problem, the biggest problem is reminding members to sign out.

Earlier in my career I used to award hours for work done outside of school on members' own time. But I stopped this after I began to notice that each year the amount of hours was going up and at the same time physical participation at projects was going down.

Leadership - 4. The amount of completed projects that a member has to take a leadership role in. This ties into our use of committees. One of the questions that always arises is how do you hold committees accountable? What if you have a committee that does nothing all year? We have this chart in our meeting room::



The visual is great for inspiration and accountability. In the first column are pitches, ideas for future projects. Then there are the committee columns with the Senate column on the end, once it is approved in the senate it goes back to the committees to run. Each committee then has their own column. Top - ideas they are considering Middle - Projects they are currently running Bottom - Projects that they ran.

Voice - 2. The amount of resolutions a member has to put forward and have advanced to the President's desk. We are a Student Government so we use "governmental" terms. Resolutions are written ideas to make the school better that would need to be enacted by administration. (add ECE classes, senior "privileges", etc)

Tying it all together, regardless of your point system, highly complex, incredibly simple. You need a carrot, an award or recognition for hard work that helps the members buy into it. I give out lanyards, certificates and other tchotchkes when members make certain milestones. The important thing when selecting your "carrot" is you want to keep your language positive, participation should not be a punitive part of your council's life.

CASC Calendar

NOVEMBER

November 1:: CASC Service Project pledge form and video tutorial.

November 5-6:: NatStuCo LEAD Conference Fall. - VIRTUAL

*The LEAD Fall Conference will be a **FREE live virtual event** that brings together and inspires NHS, NJHS, and NatStuCo member students and advisers from all over the world to make a difference in their schools and communities. Discover new leadership skills as you navigate the conference sessions exploring new ways for doing things with your chapter, council, and school and enhancing your personal leadership skills. Mark your calendars for this exciting event, November 5 and 6 and make sure to register by November 1. **Advisers must register their student leaders.***

<https://www.leadconferences.org/lead-fall/>

DECEMBER

December 3-5:: NAWD Annual National Conference on Student Activities. - VIRTUAL

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

December 7:: CASC Western District Conferences “The Art of Compromise.” - VIRTUAL

We are proud to introduce our first annual District Conferences. Each of Connecticut's 4 districts will hold its own 2 hour conference that will allow for local students and advisers to connect, build relationships and share ideas. More details to follow.

December 8:: CASC Eastern District Conferences “The Art of Compromise.” - VIRTUAL

We are proud to introduce our first annual District Conferences. Each of Connecticut's 4 districts will hold its own 2 hour conference that will allow for local students and advisers to connect, build relationships and share ideas. More details to follow.

December 14:: CASC Southern District Conference “The Art of Compromise.” - VIRTUAL

We are proud to introduce our first annual District Conferences. Each of Connecticut's 4 districts will hold its own 2 hour conference that will allow for local students and advisers to connect, build relationships and share ideas. More details to follow.

JANUARY

January 2022:: CASC Caring for Connecticut month long project - Appreciation card project for frontline healthcare workers.

January 2:: CASC Design deadline.

January 28-30:: NatStuCo LEAD Conference, Washington D.C. - TENTATIVE

NASSP will abide by the best practices regarding gatherings of large groups for our student leaders and advisers while closely monitoring and following the health guidelines set forth by the host cities and hotels. We all know that these protocols are still evolving. Please know that the health, safety, and well-being of attendees is very important to us.

FEBRUARY

February 1:: CASC Award applications due.

Council of Excellence, Top Ten Project, Dale Hawley Award, The Ron Nedovich Advisor of the Year Award, The District Project Award

February 11:: CASC Student Executive Board applications due.

February 15:: NatStuCo Council of Excellence application award deadline.

Officer candidate/parent required meeting (one to two weeks before the Convention) - VIRTUAL

February 25-27:: NatSTuCo LEAD Conference, Chicago, IL. - TENTATIVE

NASSP will abide by the best practices regarding gatherings of large groups for our student leaders and advisers while closely monitoring and following the health guidelines set forth by the host cities and hotels. We all know that these protocols are still evolving. Please know that the health, safety, and well-being of attendees is very important to us.

MARCH

March 11:: CASC Spring Convention "Unlocking the Keys to Leadership."

This year being hosted by Woodland Regional High School in Beacon Falls. At this time we are not certain if this will be live or virtual but are planning for all possibilities. More details to follow as we get closer.

APRIL

April 2022:: CASC Caring for Connecticut month long project - friendship bracelets.

MAY

May TBD:: CASC "Adventures in Leadership." - TENTATIVE

Held at Winding Trails in Farmington, CT. We are holding off on a date for this event until we can determine if it will be live or virtual. More details to follow as we get closer.

May TBD:: CASC Academy.

Officer Training. This will be a 2 day Virtual clinic geared towards training both student council officers and members.

