

CASC Advisors Planner

Official Newsletter of the Connecticut Association of Student Councils



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Association
of Student Councils

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Director's Corner

Thank you to everyone who was able to join us at CASCCon24 ***"Leadership out of this World!"*** We had 181 delegates from 14 member schools and one guest school representing all parts of Connecticut in attendance.

This year's Convention was the largest gathering of delegates and member schools since well before COVID. It featured an amazing keynote given by Lasada Pippen, a Question and Answer session with the four Constitutional Officers of Connecticut, an opportunity for CASC's General Assembly to meet, pep rally, as well as 12 student run and 2 adult run workshops!

First I would like to once again offer a special thank you to our retiring Executive Board. This dynamic group of students has set a new bar for the association with exciting new opportunities for our members. From our Workshop Presenter Training program, to our new Self Care Night in January, as well as the amazing opportunity that is Mock Legislative Session Day! Their knowledge, experiences and perspectives will be missed.

Congratulations to our newly elected Executive Board. In addition to President, Secretary-Treasurer and Middle School Liaison being elected, Waterbury Career Academy has been elected to a two year term as leadership school for the Southern District and the Connecticut IB Academy has been reelected to a two year term as leadership school for the Northern District. They have big shoes to fill but I am confident of their success. I am excited by the diversity of experience and districts represented on the 2024-25 Executive Board. You will be able to read more about them in next month's newsletter after Staff interviews.

With Spring upon us (it is Connecticut after all, 60 degrees today, minus 10 tomorrow...) we look forward to continued growth of our association and additional exciting opportunities for growth in student leadership including our upcoming "Adventures in Leadership" held this year once again at Winding Trails in Farmington.

Be sure to check our website (ctstuco.com) for our new 2024-25 calendar!

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::

MARCH

March 8:: CASC Convention (HS/MS)

This year being hosted by Woodland Regional High School in Beacon Falls.

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 73rd Birthday

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.

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.

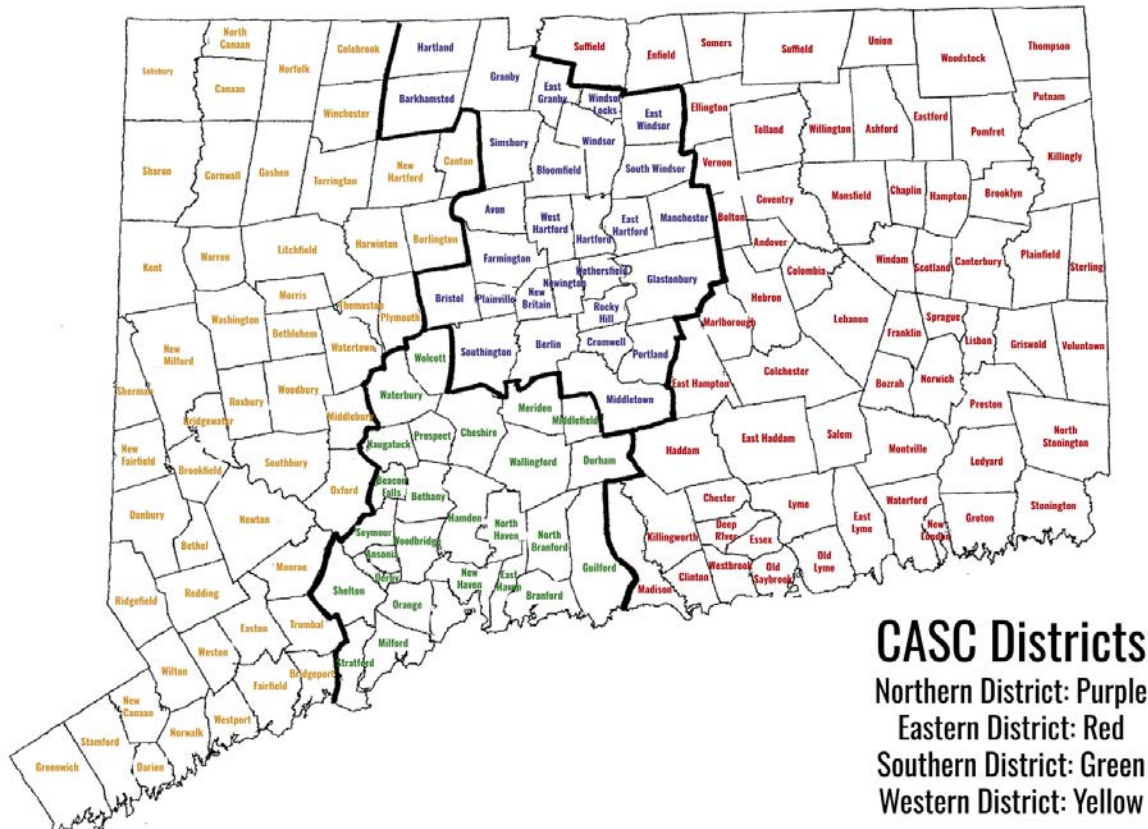
REGISTRATION OPENS SOON!

LAST CALL! STAFF APPLICATIONS

This is the last call for students willing to serve as staff on the Board. Applications **MUST** be received by Friday, March 15. Contact the Executive Director with any questions ctomlin@casciac.org
The following positions are open on the board::

- Student Workshop Coordinator (1 year position)
- Mental Health Affairs Coordinator (1 year position)

Districts in Action



Highlighting the work of local SC/Gs

Northern District - CIBA

*Naya Chae '24, Vice President;
Thierry Ofori '25, District Coordinator;
Rachel Buck, Advisor*

Eastern District - NFA

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

This past month the Connecticut IB Academy held our annual Black History Month and Chinese New Year assemblies, celebrating the diversity and culture in our school community. These assemblies included student led presentations and performances of traditional and/or culturally significant dances and songs. The SAB also encouraged CIBA students to spread their love with the sale of "parentines" flowers which we sent out on Valentine's day.

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

Wilcox Tech, Wolcott, Woodland Regional

Southern District - Notre Dame High School, West Haven

*Mickey Dowd '24, Vice President;
Matthew Prato '24, 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,

Western District - Thomaston High School

*Cierra O'Sullivan '24, Vice President;
Emily Morton '25, 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:: Project Ideas

Ideas for March

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

Start planning your SC/G Elections

It is never too early to begin planning your elections. Consider forming your elections committee now to begin to review your last election and what they would like to see done differently this time.

RECOGNITION

Wall of Honor

Acknowledge the amazing things that your students do by creating a wall of honor. Consider highlighting students with a photo of them and

their story. Likewise you could recognize your staff in the same way or any group within your community.

INSPIRATION

Attend CASC Convention!

SERVICE

Character Meet and Greet

Submitted by:: Lewis Mills HS

Type:: Service to the School and Community

Students dress up as favorite Disney characters, princesses, superheros and interact with little kids.

ENGAGEMENT

Ban the "R" Word

Practice inclusion by raising awareness about the "R" Word. Develop programs of inclusion and consider supporting the Winter games of the Special Olympics in Connecticut.

SPIRIT

Talent or Music Fest

Submitted by:: Woodland Regional High School

Showcase the talented Students in your school by hosting a musical talent show. Have teachers serve as judges and give prizes to the top talent in different categories. Hold the show during the day to highlight students to the entire student body, or after school to bring the community into your school.

Ideas for April

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!

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.

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.

SPIRIT **Movie Night**

***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](#).*

Tips and Tools

Some housekeeping challenges for Student Councils/ Governments

Adopted from "Focus" April 1987

The end of the school year presents real challenges for the Student Council/ Government (SC/G). Many Councils/Governments hold elections near the end of the second semester. Many are involved in convocations, retreats, and one-day workshops. It's a busy time, but some end-of-the-year activities include "housekeeping." Others are to wrap up the year's work. Don't underestimate the importance of these activities. Having a good SC/G in a school is important, and strong end-of-the-year efforts are crucial to keeping the SC/G solid. Here are some specific activities to consider::

Evaluate the year's work

Responses from those affected by the SC/G - students, teachers, administrators- should be sought. How did we do? What might the new SC/G learn from our experience? Evaluation is an ongoing activity, and is not just for the end of the year...but it is important to evaluate at the completion of the year.

Hints

Don't ask people to fill out extensive questionnaires. Make them brief and have them carefully proofread! Line up responses on a page so you can tabulate them easily.

Using the money

Your SC/G may not have problems with money-expense if you don't have any funds left at the year's end. But if your SC/G is responsible for the expenditure of a certain amount of money, take time to design a sensible way of doing it. If students are attending conferences, or a retreat in the summer, or if you're sending out mailings connected to orientation/welcome back activities, you'll decide on expenditures before the SC/G disbands for the year. By doing this, you'll help the new SC/G begin its work and you'll prevent putting yourself in the uncomfortable position of spending SC/G funds without discussion.

Preplan

It may sound funny to talk about pre planning as a part of year end activities, but pre planning can make or break a student activity. By providing the time, place, incentives (pizza always works for me) and refreshments for a planning session near the end of the year, the current SC/G can help next year's SC/G a great deal. (Another reason to hold your elections in the Spring rather than the Fall!)

Send thank you's

We become so busy in those last hectic weeks of the year that sometimes we skip the niceties of working

with people. To prevent this the SC/G needs to plan and assign tasks for getting the thank you notes written, gift cards purchased, calls made, or whatever, to people who have helped the SC/G over the year. And don't leave the entire task to the secretary! The whole SC/G should be involved in giving the thanks due. It's another part of learning how to work with people.

Files

Before the year is over, a group of SC/G members should work on the records and files. Minutes of meetings are important, but so are project reports. Are they labeled and filed? Is there a good summary of action taken, postponed or disapproved? Are copies of proposals to the administration available for study?

Don't leave SC/G files and records in a mess, even if that's the way you found them. If you learned about suppliers, printers, dance bands, caterers, projects, buildings, or workshops, put it in the records. Don't make the next SC/G repeat all of your mistakes; let them invent their own!

Elections

Doing "something" about elections late in the year can get complicated because of the SC/G's Constitution. Consider this case: A SC/G held elections three weeks before the end of the school year. They were a disaster. (turnout was small. Cliques were represented and large groups of students were not. The whole vote hinged on three minute speeches nervously delivered at one assembly.) Something had to be done.

Start the process of designing a good election procedure as soon as possible. Don't let it go, leaving it for next year's SC/G to do. They will get caught in the same trap, and your SC/G will be hurt. You may not be able to revise the entire plan and have it approved because of the time required, but at least write strong recommendations for the next SC/G!

We all get a little overwhelmed with grading tests, projects, and paper at the end of the year. BUT we owe it to our student leaders to help them finish the year and the SC/G's work with class!

CASC Calendar

Be sure to check the CASC Website (CTStuco.com) for more information!

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JUNE

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

<https://stucovisionconference.org/>

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.