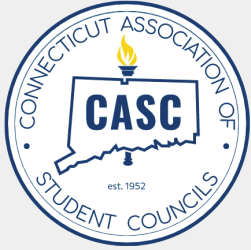


CASC Advisors Planner

Official Newsletter of the Connecticut Association of Student Councils



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CAS-CIAC
30 Realty Drive, Cheshire,
CT 06410

ADVENTURES IN LEADERSHIP



Thursday, May 22 | 9:00-2:00

Winding Trails, Farmington

Low Ropes Course and Raft Building Challenge

visit ctstuco.com to register

Director's Corner

Almost there! You got this! All you have left is AP exams, elections, prom, post-prom, senior activities, Inauguration, farewell to your seniors, car washes, ice cream socials, yearbook signing events, final fundraisers, end of year reports, the three weeks worth of lesson plans you suddenly realized that you are behind on, and don't forget that stack of papers you are hoping magically grade themselves. Don't worry, the seniors are locked in, and because the weather is getting warmer, you know everyone is more focused and eager to learn than at any point in the school year.

All joking aside, you did great this year. But it isn't over just yet. This is when we start building for next year, remember it is never too early! Sit down with your outgoing and incoming leadership teams and start going over that list you know you have of everything you liked and want to change next year. I've started using the "Plus/Delta" method for our evaluations. Everything that went well goes under the "plus" side, and everything that we can improve on goes under the "delta" side. What I like about this system is that everything is forward looking and focuses on finding the solutions rather than dwelling on the problems.

Two upcoming events I want to share with you:

Adventures in Leadership

I look forward to seeing you all at our last event of the year "*Adventures in Leadership*." It is an amazing day of leadership, memories and student growth. Please contact me if you have any questions.

President's Symposium

Also, I'm happy to announce that the "*President's Symposium*" will be once again at the Old State House in Hartford on September 24. We are planning an exciting day and look forward to sharing with everyone our plan for next year's events and activities. More details to follow!

Be safe, and as always thank you for your continued support of student leadership in Connecticut and remember to stay above the line.

Christopher Tomlin
CASC Executive Director

Upcoming State Important Dates::

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.

SEPTEMBER

September 24 - CASC "President's Symposium" (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

The 2024-25 Executive Board

State President - Kinnick Campbell '26 - Norwich Free Academy



Hey Connecticut!

I'm Kinnick Campbell, your Connecticut Association of Student Councils President for the 2025–26' school year! I'm a passionate mental health advocate, a believer in bold student leadership, and someone who knows that real change starts with real voices— yours included. Whether it's sparking a conversation or building something bigger than myself, I'm here to show that no matter where you begin, you have the power to lead with impact.

Fun Fact: *Baking is my happy place. If I'm not leading something, there's a good chance I'm in the kitchen, creating something sweet— and just a little bit chaotic.*

Convention Chair - Keegan Levine '26, Norwich Free Academy



I'm a high school junior with a passion for leadership and community service. I'm a tri-sport athlete, an officer on my school's student government, and an active member in my school's community. I also love volunteering and believe in the power of small acts of kindness to create a positive impact. I'm excited to be part of CASC, where I can learn, grow, and inspire others.

Fun Fact: *My favorite color is green*

Secretary-Treasurer - Avangeline Magi '26, Woodland Regional High School



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 Chair of the Committee on Service to School and Community and she enjoys it. She is involved with her school's kindness club and strongly believes that everyone should be treated with kindness. She was also the 2025 Convention Chair on the CASC Executive board. 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."

Fun Fact: *Her favorite color is light pink.*

Middle School Liaison - Neilly Dean Erlandson '31



I am a seventh 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 work

Fun Fact:

STAFF

Parliamentarian - Kassie Bailey '26, Woodland Regional High School



My name is Kassie Bailey and I have been elected as the Parliamentarian for CASC for the 2025-2026 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.

Fun Fact: I love to travel!

Historian/Archivist - Isabella Vazquez '26, Connecticut IB Academy



My name's Isabella! I like listening to music, taking photos, and spending time with my family and friends.

Fun Fact: I am a girl scout!

Student Workshop Coordinator - Arina Rigali '26, Woodland Regional High School



I am currently a junior and have served as a member of student government for the past year. At Woodland, I am an active member of the National Honor Society, World Language Honor Society, and Tri-M Music Honor Society. In addition to academic commitments, I participate in both indoor and outdoor track, ski club, pep band, and math team. Outside of school, I play piano and practice martial arts.

Fun Fact: *I have a second degree black belt in Tang Soo Do*

Legislative Affairs Coordinator - Sophia Vazquez '27, Conard High School



My name is Sophia Vazquez, and I am the Legislative Affairs Coordinator for the 2025-26 school year. I am currently a Sophomore at Conard High School in West Hartford, and I serve as the Sophomore Class Representative on our Student Council. As the founder and president of both Conard's Animal Shelter Club and Community Outreach Club, I strongly believe in the importance of advocacy for my student body and community alike. As the newly elected Legislative Affairs Coordinator, my goal is to encourage youth advocacy for issues they believe in and promote education on our state's legislative process.

Fun Fact: *I love to travel!*

Service Project Coordinator - Shriya Kelkar '27, Brookfield High School



Hi, my name is Shriya Kelkar, I go to Brookfield High School and I'm part of the Class of 2027. I am excited to be CASC's Service Project Coordinator for the 2025 - 26 school year! I ran for this position because I am committed to serving our community and making a difference here in Connecticut. Through Service Project Coordinator, I can help our community become a better place. I'm excited to collaborate with my peers and make this year the best it can be!

Fun Fact: *Outside of school, I am a dancer and I love to read in my free time!*

Mental Health Affairs Coordinator - Sam Ramasubramaniam '26, Connecticut IB Academy



I am a student at CIBA in East Hartford and have a big passion for student council! I am in various clubs and activities and hope to gain experience from being on the CASC board!

Fun Fact: *I like Taylor Swift!*

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!

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 CLOSED!



THE PRESIDENT'S SYMPOSIUM

Wednesday, September 24, 2025 9:00AM to 1:00 PM,
Old State House, Hartford

About Symposium

CASC Middle School and High School Advisors and Council/Government Leadership teams, you are cordially invited to register and attend this year's President's Symposium. Kick start your school year by learning about this year's Convention theme, state wide service project, recognition opportunities, upcoming conferences, free resources, project ideas, and more!

Districts in Action

Northern District - CIBA

*Jannah Sallam '26, Vice President;
Buckle Buck '27, District Coordinator;
Rachel Buck, District Advisor*



Jannah Sallam

My name is Jannah Sallam and I am a junior at the Connecticut IB Academy in East Hartford. I am the vice president for my schools Student Advisory Board, and I served as the previous CASC Student Workshop Coordinator. In my free time I like helping others, This year I am excited to take on this new role as I get to meet new leaders from across the state!

Fun Fact: *I can speak two languages!*

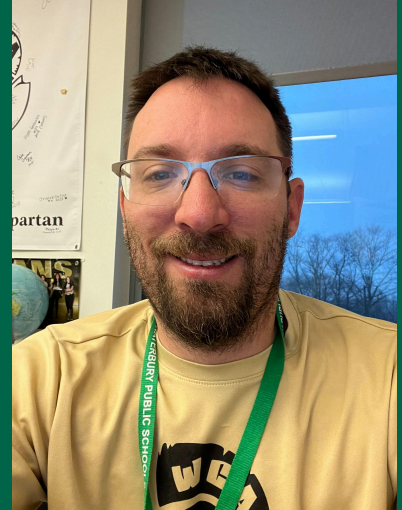
Buckle Buck

I am currently a sophomore at CIBA. I enjoy drawing, reading, and sewing. I also have been doing theatre for 8 years and I have 4 cats.

Fun Fact: *I want to go to college in England for Costume Design.*

Southern District - WCA, Waterbury

*London Carter Williams '26, Vice President;
Samatha Ramdin '27, District Coordinator;
John O'Toole, District Advisor*



London Carter Williams

Hi! I'm a 16-year-old published author, and my favorite color is pink! I love writing and sharing my stories with others. On top of that, I hold two school records in track, and I'm also the class president!

Fun Fact: *I can speak two languages*

Samantha Ramdin

My name is Samantha Ramdin, and I'm a sophomore at Waterbury Career Academy. I currently serve as the Southern District Coordinator on the CASC board, and I'm actively involved in many other leadership roles and clubs. A fun fact about me is that I love to be active, so running and dancing are two of my favorite things to do!

Fun Fact: *I love to be active, so running and dancing are two of my favorite things to do!*

Eastern District - NFA

Sharon Liu '26, Vice President;
Winnie '27, District Coordinator;
Lorraine Dooley, Advisor



Sharon Liu

Hello! My name is Sharon and I am a junior at Norwich Free Academy. I am apart of the Student Advisory Board and Project Outreach. I am also on the Track and Field and Cross Country team! And I really enjoy working with other people and am excited to be apart of this association!

Fun Fact:: My favorite seasons are summer and winter.

Winnie

Hi, my name is Winnie! I am a sophomore at Norwich Free Academy. I'm a dedicated student with a strong passion whether that's academically, or being involved in the community to contribute and make a difference. I am known for my skills of work ethics, compassion, and optimism. Outside of school, I enjoy picking up many hobbies. Some of them include swimming, pole vault, volunteer work, and exploring clubs. I'm always striving to grow both personally and academically, and I'm committed to making an impact.

Fun Fact: I love traveling and my favorite place I've been to was Banff, Canada.

Western District - Thomaston High School

Alyssa O'Brien '26, Vice President;

Makenzie Chasse '26, District Coordinator;

Terri Franzi, District Advisor



Alyssa O'Brien

My name is Alyssa O'Brien and I am a part of the class of 2026 at Thomaston High School. This is my third year as a member of our Student Council. I am currently our Student Councils Secretary. I am also a representative of my Class Council. Besides Student Council and Class Council I am very active in other clubs in my school's community. At THS, I am an active member of our sage club and I play Field Hockey in the fall and Track and Field in the Spring. I have been a part of CASC for about the past year or so and have seen myself grow in many different ways, and I am very excited to bring new ideas to this years CASC Board. Some activities I enjoy doing in my free time is baking, cooking, spending time with family/friends, and practicing at home for the sports I participate in!

Fun Fact: *I have been working at Tramonti Ristorante in Thomaston CT for three years, and I surprisingly LOVE working*

Mackenzie Chasse

My name is Makenzie Chasse and I am a junior at Thomaston High School. It is my third year on our school's student council and I am the co-chair of the fundraising committee. I am very involved at my school being president of SAGE Club, a representative of Science Club, and a class representative. Additionally, I am a multi sport athlete competing in soccer and track for my school, my town's competitive dance team, and a player for CT Rush Central. My favorite part about being an active member in my community, especially on student council, is being able to spend time with my friends and make new ones. I am looking forward to making more new friends!

Fun Fact: *My day is not complete if I didn't eat a cinnamon streusel coffee cake from Hostess.*

CTRISES:: Project Ideas

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.

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

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.

***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

Aim for Projects to Remember

Reprint from FOCUS... April, 1985

Let your Student Council/Government (SC/G) aim for projects that people will remember! The secret: plan it well; begin it wisely, and conduct it with enthusiasm-then-END IT WITH STYLE!

"Closure" means finishing, concluding, completing. Psychologists have told us the importance of "wrapping up" to retain the spirit and meaning of events in our lives. SC/Gs can improve meetings, assemblies, projects and retreats by deciding how to conclude them with a feeling of closure and "class."

Choose feelings, facts, ideas or experiences within the event that you want participants to retain. (For example, you may hope people keep a feeling of cooperation, and pride in cleaning up their school, or an interest in doing something kind for the less fortunate.) The SC/G should design a conclusion that will highlight, emphasize or even recreate the important elements of an event so that people will remember it.

Here are some specific samples:

Completing a workshop

SC/G leadership workshops use "letter to self" as part of closure. It could be used just as well at the close of a retreat or even a meeting (especially early in the school year).

At the end of the workshop, students are asked to reflect in writing on the workshop's impact on them and to specify objectives they wish to reach in the early portion of the school year. The letter is mailed in November. Students are surprised at how much they hoped to accomplish so early in the year and how much has actually happened.

Composing the letter is an effective form of closure for the students, helping them to evaluate what they want to do in the coming year by a specific date.

Completing a project

Reporting successes and failure and making recommendations about future efforts are important forms of closure in any project. Design a concluding activity allows the SC/G to appreciate and thank students for outstanding jobs done, adding a positive element to the project.

Closing an SC/G meeting

Because we are often rushed for time in SC/Gs, the discussion frequently centers on the end of the period. A better closure is to present a summary of action taken and projections for the next meeting. This summary will help strengthen lines of communication: reports to constituent groups by representatives.

Concluding a special event

Designing a dramatic concluding activity for a series of events is challenging and fun.

The SC/G can plan an enjoyable program to bring the year to a fitting, memorable conclusion.

At the closing of a SC/G workshop, each student is given a stamped postcard which is self-addressed. The message asks whoever finds the card to return it, completing the circle of good wishes. Then students write themselves a message.

Each card is slipped into a plastic sandwich bag and a hole is punched in one corner. The bagged cards are

tied to helium-filled balloons, which were released together at workshop end. The sight of students releasing their balloons and messages into the sky is exciting! Each person cheers as balloons struggle against downdrafts before disappearing into the sky.

The fun of getting cards back with messages is a bonus.

Reminders: Order materials way in advance and get a large crew to fill balloons. Notify local newspaper

Upcoming Events

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

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.