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CASC Advisors Planner

Official Newsletter of the Connecticut Association of Student Councils

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Director's Corner

I hope everyone had a safe Halloween, and are surviving their Fall, Pumpkin Spice, Autumn, how is it already Quarter 2?, post Parent-Teacher Conference, Homecoming Dance, Spirit Week, Pep Rally, end of Fall Sports season/post season , Election Day is when?, is it Thanksgiving Break yet? Wait, I also have to cook and host that as well!?!? Season.

A couple quick items, we are continuing to work on the format of the "Program Updates" section of the newsletter, additionally We are still seeking a high school to fill a one-year vacancy for **Western District Leadership School** for the 2026–27 school year! To qualify, your school just needs **1 adviser** (to serve on an E-Board committee statewide) and **2 students**—one to serve as **Vice President** on the Competition Committee (planning Top Project, CSV, and the pep rally) and one as **District Coordinator** on the Recognition Committee (overseeing awards like Council of Excellence, Nedovich, and Unsung Hero). The commitment includes 5 Saturday morning meetings at CAS in Cheshire (9 AM–1 PM), monthly 30-minute Sunday virtual syncs (7 PM), and key CASC events (Convention, Presidents Symposium, Virtual District Conference, and Adventures in Leadership).

If you and your student leaders are interested, or if you have any questions, please reach out directly!

Remember between newsletters to check our association website (https://www.ctstuco.com/) as well as our instagram feed @ctstuco to keep up with the latest news and opportunities CASC offers.

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::

NOVEMBER

November 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.

Program Updates



DISTRICT CONFERENCE

November 17, 2026 - *Virtual*

Why Attend Conference

District Conference offers a unique and inspiring opportunity for student leaders to connect, collaborate, and share their ideas. It serves as a launching pad for meaningful projects, innovative initiatives, and real-world issues that participants are passionate about addressing in their own communities. Beyond idea-sharing, the conference fosters valuable networking, the exchange of resources, and the formation of supportive peer communities that continue long after the event ends. *Whether you want to refine your council's current goals or bring home fresh projects that inspire your entire student body, this is the place to start.*

What to Expect

Interactive Problem-Solving Breakouts: *Dive into real-world student council topics*

Hands-On CTRISES Action Planning: *Walk away with a complete, balanced annual roadmap for your school using the CTRISES framework*

"Our Best!" Project Showcase: *Share your school's standout event and learn what other councils across CT are doing.*

Conference Schedule::

9:00-10:00 A.M. Opening Plenary Session
10:00-12:00 Discussion and District Breakouts



WORKSHOP WEDNESDAY *"Your midweek boost of student leadership!"*

November through December - Virtual

This season, we are launching two free specialized training series designed to build practical skills for

students and advisors while elevating your voice and engagement:

ParliPro!

Designed for participants of any experience level, these sessions offer an approachable entry into the world of parliamentary procedure. Learn how to run effective meetings, draft motions, and lead with confidence.

Certified Student Presenter Training

Transform into a highly effective speaker for CASC events, including our upcoming Convention. These workshops will refine your public speaking techniques, focusing on confidence, content delivery, and audience engagement. Participants will gain access to exclusive resources and an open forum to receive direct feedback on their presentation skills.

Workshop Schedule:

- **Nov 4:** ParliPro!
- **Nov 11:** ParliPro!
- **Nov 18:** ParliPro!
- **Nov 25:** *No Workshop (Thanksgiving Break)*
- **Dec 2:** Certified Student Presenter Training
- **Dec 9:** Certified Presenter Training
- **Dec 16:** Certified Presenter Training
- **Dec 23:** *No Workshop (Winter Break)*

Are you ready to level up your leadership?

2027 CASC CONVENTION!

March 2027

Woodland Regional High School

Registration goes live on CTSTUCO.com on December 1!

2026-27 CASC AWARDS!

February 2027

Your student council is doing great things, make sure those accomplishments get the recognition they deserve! CASC offers a number of awards that celebrate outstanding student councils, students, and advisors who demonstrate leadership, service, and a commitment to making their schools and communities better!

A few important reminders:

- The Council of Excellence, Student Council Award is a year-long process that encourages your council to take a deeper look at its program and impact within the school

community.
- The Student Leadership and Unsung Hero Awards are open to Middle and High School student council members.
- Don't wait until the deadline! Start collecting photos, statistics, testimonials, and other documentation now!
- Submissions are accepted starting December 1!

Don't let your school's great work go unnoticed—nominate, celebrate, and shine! Awards are open exclusively to CASC member schools, and all applications must be submitted online.**(CTSTUCO.COM/recognition)**

2026-27 CASC COMPETITIONS!

February 2027

CASC offers a variety of student-centered leadership competitions designed to encourage excellence in service, communication, collaboration, and school engagement. Through events such as CSV and Top Project, CASC Competitions give student councils the opportunity to highlight their initiatives, share effective practices, and strengthen leadership skills. These events foster teamwork, creativity, and community involvement while connecting students from across the state in a supportive, growth-focused environment.

A few important reminders:
- Submissions are accepted starting December 1!

Competitions are open exclusively to CASC member schools, and all applications must be submitted online.**(CTSTUCO.COM/competition)**

One Bookmark, Every Answer You Need

From elections and installations to fundraising and onboarding, the Adviser Resource Center has the exact guide, checklist, or template your council needs. Bookmark the shared google drive today and save hours on your next project. If there is something you are doing that you think could help advisors, we'd love to hear from you! **https://www.ctstuco.com/resources**

2028 CASC CONVENTION HOST! - YES - 2028!

March 2028

A High School Near You!

Planning ahead? CASC is always looking for engaged student leaders, advisors and schools interested in taking their leadership to the next level! Applications are due by February 12, 2027 CASC would be thrilled to hear your bid at this year's Convention, so now is the time to start planning!

Questions? Email CASC's executive director

IS YOUR STUDENT COUNCIL A MEMBER OF CASC?

Advisors, scan the QR code to check if your Student Council/Government is a member of CASC!

CTRISES:: Project Ideas

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? Think about incorporating some of these suggestions into your calendar.

Ideas for November

CITIZENSHIP

Get out the Vote activities

Inspiring young leaders to participate in the democratic system of our country is at the very heart of why Student Councils were first founded in the 1800's. Contact your local registrars to try and hold a voter registration day for your seniors. Pass out information about local ballot questions, candidates and the major issues. (The important part is to be unbiased in all of your materials.)

Consider expanding beyond just high school seniors. Add a non-partisan "mock election" or policy debate for underclassmen so the entire school practices civic engagement, even those under 18. Partner with social studies classes to turn it into an annual tradition.

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

It's 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

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.

Ideas for December

CITIZENSHIP

Local Government Visit

Towns that recently elected new mayors or town councils have their inaugurations this month. It is a great opportunity to see your local government in action.

TRAINING

Event Planning and Management Training

Help students develop organizational and time-management skills. A hands-on project where students plan and execute an event (e.g., a fundraiser or a talent show). Workshops on budgeting, scheduling, and promoting events. Assign students specific roles (e.g., logistics coordinator, marketing lead) to learn how different parts of event planning work together.

RECOGNITION

Faculty Breakfast

Surprise the Faculty, Staff and Administration with breakfast.

INSPIRATION

Last Meeting of the Year

This is a great opportunity to evaluate your progress as a council. Have you achieved the goals you set out for yourselves in September? Were your goals too ambitious? Not ambitious enough? Is everything working the way it should? Do members need to be moved to new positions? Have you run all of the projects that you set out to run? What do you have planned in the second half of the year?

Be sure to celebrate yourselves as well! At our annual party we play a number of governmental themed holiday games from holding debates over what is the most overrated holiday movie, to who can read the holiday songs in as epic a way as possible, to converting swag into epic holiday attire. All while wearing our ugliest of ugly sweaters!

SERVICE

Week of Giving

Submitted by:: Wells Road Intermediate School

Collect items to take care of those in our immediate and extended community

Week long collection event with a different theme each day.

- *Monday: Students make holiday cards for veterans*
- *Tuesday: Donate items to CCMC's wish list. Items include Lego kits, infant/toddler toys, action figures and Crayola supplies*
- *Wednesday: Bring a NEW pair of PJ's to donate to a child in need*
- *Thursday: Food drive to benefit Granby Food Bank*
- *Friday: PJ's for a Buck – donate $1 to CCMC and wear your PJ's to school*

A fantastic event that allowed people to give how and when they were able. Plus, the cards for vets could be done by everyone.

Cards for Kids

Submitted by:: Woodland Regional High School

A tradition at some schools is to make holiday cards for children who will be spending the season in hospitals rather than at home. It is a simple but meaningful way to make an impact in your community. Be careful to monitor what the cards say and to keep them positive.

Use phrases such as:: Stay Strong, You are awesome, Never forget how amazing YOU are, You rock!, Be Brave, I hope you have a great day today!, You inspire me, I believe in YOU.

There are also organizations that can help you distribute the cards nationally if you don't have a local connection to a hospital.

ENGAGEMENT

Universal Human Rights Month

December is a time to honor the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, an international document stating the basic rights and fundamental freedoms to which all human beings are entitled. These rights include freedom from discrimination, the right to equality, and the right

to be considered innocent until proven guilty.

Use #UniversalHumanRights, #HumanRights, and #StandUp4HumanRights to post on social media. The Dignity & Respect Campaign says the best way we can celebrate Universal Human Rights Month is by working to find common ground with those around us who may not have the same background as we do. This month, you can also:

- *Read a book about the Declaration of Human rights, or about human rights in general*
- *Spread the word on social media*
- *Go out of your way to treat everyone with respect, kindness, and equality*
- *Teach others about why human rights for everyone are so important*

SPIRIT

International Day

Submitted by:: Kennedy High School

Celebrate the diversity in our school and community.

Students in the school work in groups to represent countries all over the world. They make a poster with information and photos about the country, cook food from that country, dress in traditional clothing, and perform dances to music from the country for the whole school to enjoy.

The students look forward to representing their different ethnic backgrounds and learning about others every year.

***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

Better Leaders Build Better Councils

Adopted from “CHALLENGE” February 1989

Often one of the most difficult challenges we ask of our student leaders isn’t to host the homecoming dance, or to meet with the principal, it is to lead their fellow students. It's equally hard often for them to sit back and objectively evaluate the meeting that they just ran.

Some check questions for the president:

Does the executive committee plan the agenda early?

Yes _____ No _____

Is the agenda distributed to the representatives and the faculty well before the meeting?

Yes _____ No _____

Does the meeting follow the agenda?

Yes _____ No _____

Does the meeting move?

Yes _____ No _____

Do you talk to the entire group rather than to individuals?

Yes _____ No _____

Do you sum up what has been said and obtain a decision?

Yes _____ No _____

Do you stop "wandering discussions" by recommending that a committee study the issues involved?

Yes _____ No _____

Do you keep control of the meeting without stifling free comment and participation?

Yes _____ No _____

Are you careful to keep discussion honest?

Yes _____ No _____

Do you refrain from slanting issues?

Yes _____ No _____

Do you help monopolizers to control themselves, to stick to the topics, and to avoid repetitious statements?

Yes _____ No _____

Are you aware of the room, comfort, temperature, light, thirst, hearing, sight, etc. of the members?

Yes _____ No _____

Do you secretly check the agenda, evaluate coverage, measure the meeting and determine progress?

Yes _____ No _____

Do you highlight accomplishments during the meeting's progress?

Yes _____ No _____

Does everyone participate in the meeting both as listeners and as speakers?

Yes _____ No _____

Do the members speak clearly? Loudly?

Yes _____ No _____

Do you avoid arguing with an individual?

Yes _____ No _____

Is there confusion? Do you know how to clarify things?

Yes _____ No _____

Do you give your individual attention to every speaker?

Yes _____ No _____

Does everyone participate in the meeting both as listeners and as speakers?

Yes _____ No _____

Do you refrain from personal comments on issues?

Yes _____ No _____

Do you summarize at the end of the meeting to emphasize important decisions, considerations and accomplishments?

Yes _____ No _____

Upcoming Events

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

NOVEMBER

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

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 4-6:: NA4SA (NAWD) Annual National Conference on Student Activities (MS/HS)

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

December 16:: Mock Legislative Session Day (HS)

Mock Legislative Session Day is an opportunity for student council 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 bill's 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 members the opportunity to gain a better understanding of the legislative process in a hands-on way.

JANUARY

January 30:: Student Workshop Presenter Training (HS) at CAS, Cheshire

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

FEBRUARY

February 2:: Mental Health Summit (HS)

February 12:: NatStuCo Council of Excellence application award deadline. (MS/HS)

February 12:: CASC Student Executive Board applications due. (MS/HS)

February 12:: CASC Award applications due. (MS/HS)

MARCH

March 5:: State Convention, WOODLAND Regional High School (MS/HS)

March 12:: CASC Staff Applications Due

March 20:: CASC Staff interviews at CAS, Cheshire

APRIL

April TBD:: Advocacy Day, Hartford

April 17:: CASC's 75th Birthday

April TBD:: National Student Leadership Week (MS/HS)

MAY

May 1:: New Officers Term Begins

May 19:: *"Adventures in Leadership"* (MS/HS)

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. More details to follow.