

NCSA 2017 CONVERSATION CAFÉ

Interactive conversations and sharing sessions

Format: 55-minute conversations in groups of 15-20.

Facilitator: Each group will have a pre-determined facilitator with experience in that specific topic area.

Participants: Participants will be asked to indicate their top 2 choices as part of the online conference registration. This process is designated so that we know if we need to offer two groups of the same topic. Participants will be notified in advance of the focus group session to which they are assigned to attend so that they prepare questions and bring materials and ideas to share.

Potential Topics for Conversation Café Groups:

- **Middle School and Upper Elementary School Leadership Development and Activity Programs**
This conversation will focus on successful models for leadership training with younger students. Explore common leadership language that can impact school wide culture and climate.
(Designed for middle school and elementary school educators)
- **Leadership Camp/Workshop Planning, Logistics and Curriculum**
A conversation on what works and what to avoid when planning and implementing leadership trainings.
(Designed for Camp/Workshop Directors, State Executive Directors, and camp/workshop staff members)
- **Leadership Camps/Workshops for Advanced Students**
A conversation that focuses on providing experiences for students who have previously attended a Camp/Workshop. Curriculum components, schedules and unique challenges and solutions will likely surface.
(Designed for Camp Directors, staff members, and State Executive Directors)
- **Measuring Impact and Growth**
How do we gather data and what do we do with it? This conversation with focus on tools for gathering pre/post participation data, metrics to measure leadership effectiveness and turning stories into data.
(Designed for camp directors, activity advisers, administrators, state executive directors)
- **Hosting a State or Regional Conference**
A conversation on essential elements for successfully hosting a major conference. Guides for conference hosts, schedules, program ideas, selecting student-led workshops, financing are all key elements.
(Designed for State Executive Directors and those anticipating hosting future state or regional conferences)
- **Advisor Workshops, Seminars, and Conferences**
How do we recruit and train a new generation of advisors? This conversation will focus on training models, schedules, curriculum, timing and strategies for reaching your target audience.
(Designed for State Executive Directors and Consultants)
- **Leadership Class Curriculum**
Few classes vary as much as Leadership! This conversation will focus on sharing ways that leadership classes are tailored to fit the needs of each school. Participants will help define their own "why" for Leadership Class which will help guide their program.
(Designed for Leadership Class Educators and Administrators)
- **Designing Leadership Training Activities**
A creative conversation on designing and developing activities that teach student leadership concepts. Examples of basic activity design, sources of low cost materials, games with meaningful metaphors and how to process an activity to enhance student learning.
(Designed for Activity Advisors)
- **Leadership Training for Your Group Members**
A sharing conversation with ideas for short and simple activities and resources that can incorporate leadership training as a regular part of your meetings.
(Designed for Activity Advisors)
- **Club Management**
A nuts and bolts conversation about what works when managing clubs. Topics such as recruiting members, creating essential documents (charters, constitutions, job descriptions), planning effective meetings, officer training and responsibilities, group planning and decision-making are very likely to surface.
(Designed for NHS, DECA, FBLA, class government, and club advisors)

- Exploring Your Why**

A conversation focused on “WHY”. Once you know your WHY, program purpose, direction, strategic planning and designing initiatives to support your mission fall into place. Discuss creating a clear vision and building a solid program based on that foundation.

(Designed for state executive directors, activity coordinators, administrators)
- Reaching Traditionally Underserved Populations**

A critical conversation around accessibility. Join the conversation regarding barriers to involvement, providing culturally responsive programs, and promoting inclusive policy and practice.

(Designed for camp directors, activity advisers, administrators, state executive directors)
- Championing the Value of Student Activities**

How can we amplify our message and sell our value to key stakeholders? This conversation will focus on the educational values of student activities and the connections to core standards, college and career readiness and social-emotional learning.

(Designed for Administrators, Directors of Activities, State Executive Directors)
- Critical Conversations Around School Culture**

Culture and climate drive a school. Learning follows. This conversation will dive deep into issues of school culture and will explore ideas and innovation to build culture and climate capacity.

(Designed for advisers, administrators and all looking to improve the culture of their organization.)
- Using Data as a Compass for Student Leadership Initiatives**

What data are you (or could you be) using with your students to help them shape goals and projects? This conversation will focus on drawing from school demographics, attendance data, school “report cards” and other data points to find strategies to truly engage student leaders in approaches that meet the needs of all students.

(Designed for advisers, administrators and all looking to enhance the effectiveness and authenticity of their programs.)
- Can we talk? Facilitating Civil Discourse**

As a polarized nation we must honestly address polarization in our schools. This conversation will focus on issues that divide, but more importantly facilitation strategies (for students or adults) that allow all voices to be heard and valued, with the goal of finding common ground.

(Designed for anyone interested in strategies to increase dialogue and understanding.)