

Training Leaders to Lead!

National Conference on Student Activities 2017

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<https://goo.gl/4QxBZX>

In working with Student Council and Leadership Camps for 20 years, I have found retreats to be an optimum way to train leaders, preparing them to lead the way. Retreats are a way to bring unity, organization, vision, and much more to your council. You don't have to go far or spend a lot of money to create a huge impact. The work you do will help your council, school, and community now and in years to come. You can get on the same page with your officers at an officer retreat. Then give your officers the opportunity to share and create a vision for your council with a member retreat. You can even keep up morale and evaluate where you are with a mid-year retreat. Transform your council and community by just spending a little time with your students...retreating!

Talk to your principal about the value of the retreat.

- ❖ Value to school
- ❖ Value to student growth
- ❖ Value to you as a teacher

Remember FLEXIBILITY is essential! Council Retreat Schedules may need to be very loose. There are many reasons, some good and some bad, that may lead to schedule changes. Don't worry! You don't have to fit everything in. 😊

Inspiring and training new officers:

- Specific training in running meetings
- Developing agendas and keeping complete minutes
- Working with other officers
- Financial reports
- Team building
- Examine and adjust leadership styles
- Keeping yourself and others motivated

Ideas:

- **Hold a summer retreat in mid to late-August for officers, and committee chairs.** Use a local park or a pool setting at someone's house. Officers can share what they learned at a TASC summer workshop. Use the retreat to set specific goals for the school year for the committees, to plan the calendar of events for the year (specifically for committee work), and to build the new leadership team.
- **Plan team building activities.** Plan a group social event at least each 6-weeks. Student Council work can be very serious but must be fun too!
- **The football team has a playbook, so should the Student Council.** The officers and advisor(s) can work together to create a Student Council Playbook to be given to all officers, committee chairs, and representatives. The Playbook should include:
 1. Your constitution
 2. List of members/contact information/role definitions
 3. Phone tree
 4. Parliamentary procedure reference chart
 5. List of school rules/policies
 6. List of Student Council rules and policies
 7. Packets of information including a calendar of meeting dates and times and events already scheduled on the school calendar
 8. Examples of agendas, purchase orders, and proposals

Retreats for Officers

Hold a retreat near the end of the school year or in the early summer for your officers.

- **Focus:**
 - Creating Vision, Goals, and Challenge for Year
 - Officer Teambuilding and Expectations
 - Evaluate Previous Year
 - Developing Event Calendar
 - Fundraising
 - Finishing Strong
- **Resources:**
 - Tentative Retreat Schedule
 - Personality Profile
 - RSVP

Hold a retreat in the middle of the year for your officers.

- **Focus:** Reevaluate goals you set for the year and progress made, and plan for spring activities.
- **Resources:** Mid-Year Retreat Schedule

Retreats for Committee Chairs

Hold a summer retreat near the beginning of school for officers and committee chairs.

- **Focus:**
 - Executive Council Teambuilding and Expectations
 - Set Committee Goals for Year
 - Committee Calendar Planning
 - Member Retreat Planning
- **Resources:**
 - Group Team Building
 - Mousetrap Activities
 - Committee Calendar Planning

Retreats for All Members

Hold a back-to-school retreat for the entire membership. (Advisor and Officers decide on lessons to share with the council from TASC Summer Leadership Workshop and previous experiences.)

- **Focus:**
 - Membership Teambuilding and Expectations
 - Brainstorm and Planning
 - Leadership Development
 - Committee Work
- **Resources:**
 - Retreat Packet (Constitution, Officer/Committee Head Lists, ParliPro, Calendar, Examples Project Proposals, etc)
 - Raccoon Circles/Olympics/Amazing Race/Scavenger Hunt