



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Founded (as NAWD) by Dr. Earl Reum in 1973

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*We **connect** and **inspire** Student Activity advisors with the **ideas** and **resources** that **empower** students to **grow** as leaders and **transform** their schools and communities.*

Dear Administrators,

As our organization celebrates our 50th year, we take pause to evaluate the role of co-curricular activities in school buildings and benefits gained by our students who actively participate. School student activity programs usually include the planning of social activities and service projects which are deep in tradition. This importance has not changed, but the complexity has most definitely changed. The upcoming school year will demand that student activity programs rebuild and redefine school culture. Student leaders can no longer simply create activities to meet the needs for their peers in a conventional way.

The annual **National Conference on Student Activities** (NCSA) provides an experience that greatly benefits advisors and the schools in which they work. The conference, annually presented by the National Association for Student Activities (NA4SA) since its founding as the National Association of Workshop Directors (NAWD) in 1973, brings together educators from across North America who work with middle and high school sponsored student activities.

NA4SA is a national association dedicated to “the 4 A’s” – Advocates, Advisors, Administrators, and Allies of ALL student activities. With regard to advisors, NA4SA and our National Conference on Student Activities provide professional development to ensure the creation of essential programs to elevate the quality of co-curricular activities on their campus. With extensive training and support combined with building a professional community dedicated to student activities, advisors not only develop the skills to become successful co-curricular advisors but are far more likely to remain in their roles, alleviating the frequent turnover all too common among activity advisors.

This conference provides advisors a network of support, the opportunity to grow their leadership knowledge base, and endless resources. While this may be the second year that schools will have students attending in person after the recent pandemic, there is still much to do in rebuilding school culture, traditions, and expectations. Concerns remain about students dropping out, either from being actively involved in their school community – or from school altogether. Numerous studies and data affirm that participation in co-curricular activities positively impact student attendance, school connectedness, empathy, and promote civic behavior. Now more than ever, student activity advisors need administrators who understand and support their valuable role in the school community. Well-trained advisors are better positioned to maximize the value of this role, for their students and school.

With all this in mind, we ask that you please consider taking advantage of the opportunity to have your advisors – and yourself as well – attend our National Conference on Student Activities and become an active part of our professional community dedicated to the value and importance of student activities.

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