South Carolina

PTA

everychild.onevoice.

Presents:

PROGRAMS

PROGRAMS &

MORE PROGRAMS

For a year of enrichment and fun!!!
PTA PROGRAMS
WHAT DO YOU OFFER YOUR MEMBERS?

PTA Mission Statement:
The overall purpose of PTA is to make every child’s potential a reality by engaging and empowering families and communities to advocate for all children.

Fundraising should be the MEANS to provide services and programs, NOT your primary focus!

Golden Rule of PTA units
THREE (3)
NON-FUNDRAISING PROGRAMS
FOR EVERY
ONE (1) FUNDRAISER
3 TO 1
How do you know what programs to offer? ASK!!!
Ask: Parents, principals, teachers, other volunteers, students

Surveying your members is the best way to find out what they are interested in and what they’d like PTA to offer.

Surveys can be paper versions sent home in backpacks or digital version completed online using such FREE websites as Survey Monkey ( surveymonkey.com ) or kwiksurveys.com.

Give your respondents choices and don’t forget to leave room for “write-ins”.

Sample Elementary School survey:

Please complete this survey to help your PTA plan PROGRAMS that will meet the needs of our members.

Check your top 5 favorite

___ Effective Parent/Child communication
___ Homework help
___ Alcohol/Drug Education
___ Screen time management
___ Home/School Communication
___ Fears of Children
___ Parenting
___ Curriculum Issues
___ Effective Discipline
___ Motivating Children
___ Storytelling night
___ Bullying prevention

___ Self Esteem
___ Arts in the School
___ Game Night for Families
___ Talent Show for Families
___ Health Fair/Energy Balance
___ Evening with Principal
___ Allergy awareness
___ Bus Safety
___ Gun Safety
___ Citizenship/Patriotism
___ STEM night
___ Reflections Awards Night/gallery

Sample survey for middle or high schools:
Back to School Packet!

Please complete this survey to help your PTA plan PROGRAMS that will meet the needs of our members.

Check your top 5 favorite

___ Effective Parent/Child communication
___ Homework help
___ Alcohol/Drug Education
___ Screen time management
___ Home/School Communication
___ Anxiety & depression
___ Talent Night (students)
___ ACT/SAT information
___ College admissions/scholarship prep
___ Bullying prevention
___ “Soft” skills in a Social Media world
___ Self Esteem
___ Arts in the School
___ Patriotic Night
___ Effective habits for teens
___ Health Fair/Energy Balance
___ Dessert with Principal
___ Curriculum Issues
___ Gun Safety
___ Citizenship/Patriotism
___ Reflections Awards Night/gallery
You are cordially invited to attend the (Your school name) PTA Effective Parent/Child Communication Seminar

Thursday, September 10th from 7:00 – 8:00 pm
In the Multi-Purpose Room

Our Guest Speaker will be:
(Name)

Light refreshments will be served
After receiving the survey results from your members, think about combining several issues for one program event...

**EXAMPLE:**

(School name) PTA will sponsor our

**ANNUAL HEALTH FAIR** Sept. 8 at 7 p.m.

You may choose three of the four ...

(Name of presenter) will speak for 20 minutes on “Common Fears of Children” and how to help them overcome them.

(Name of presenter) will speak for 20 minutes on “What do Immunizations REALLY do for your child”

(Name of presenter) will speak for 20 minutes on “Tips for Effective Discipline”

(Name of presenter) will speak for 20 minutes on “How to figure out what the nutritional information means on all those boxes of food”

FREE flu shots provided by XYZ Hospital System to the first 50 attendees.

Light Refreshments provided by ABC Market

Door prizes, free samples and merchant coupons
Preparing for your PTA Health Fair

- Have a discussion and board vote to sponsor a Health Care Fair
- Get the date cleared with your principal
- Form a Health Fair Committee and Chairman
- Include your school nurse in the plans

COMMITTEE:

- Meet to discuss the “Who, What, When, Where, and Hows” of carrying out this event.
- Choose qualified, reputable people to present their part on your program
- Remember, presenters are not allowed to “push” their practice or “sell their products during the presentation. They may leave business cards for all attendees.
- After committee has determined what topics will be presented, who will present, the location in the school, and cost if budget allows for anything needed that evening (refreshments or gifts of appreciation to the speakers), the Health Fair Chairman presents this to the Board for final approval.
- Advertise – Advertise – Advertise! School newsletter, Social Media, Phone messages, school & teacher websites, notice in local newspapers. Invite School Board Trustees (invite well in advance).
- Have several hosts to guide parents as they come to the event!
Steps to take for a successful Storytelling Program

- **Organize** by getting dates, rooms, and storytellers approved. Consider “celebrity” readers like the principal, mayor, school board trustees, or local coaches.
- **Advertise:** school newsletter, backpack “mail”, posters around school, teacher’s weekly communication home, weekly phone blasts, social media, free public service announcements in local papers
- **Prize** offered to the class with the largest turn-out
- **Coordinate** with your book fair chair if it will coincide with the school’s book fair week
- **Prepare** to have ample refreshments however simple or fancy you desire
- **Clean-up** easy but one more thing to remember
- **Take pictures!** For the yearbook and to submit to the local newspapers.
- **Celebrate your successful Program!**
Don’t miss the annual PTA Storytelling night!

(Name of School) PTA will have three amazing stories to choose from:

- An Adventure story
- A mysterious history story about South Carolina
- An authentic story about a famous person

You and your child may choose two of the three stories to enjoy. Each story period will take approximately 15 minutes. Following this fun event, our annual book fair will be in the library where light refreshments will be served. Children may wear pajamas.

When: Tuesday, October 6
Time: 7-8 p.m.
Place: Kindergarten Wing
(Name of School) PTA

Invites all parents to join the PTA Board for

**Dessert with the Principal**

Tuesday, September 15th from 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.

In the Media Center

(Name of Principal) will address important concerns for the upcoming year as well question & answer portion
(Name of School) PTSA Presents

BATTLE OF THE BANDS

Auditions will be Tuesday, November 3, from 4 – 6 p.m. in the cafeteria.

First place will receive $100.00
Second Place will receive $50.00
Third Place will receive $25.00

The BATTLE will take place November 24 during the three lunches.

Student and three judges will vote for their favorite band!

You must have a PTSA Membership Card to participate
To Do List in preparation for
(Your School’s) Got Talent

• Bring to your Board for approval
• Check with principal for his/her approval
• Choose an evening and get it scheduled on school calendar.
• Form a Talent show committee to plan out the details.
• Bring details to the following board meeting. Example: who will run the sound system, judges, time, talent line-up information.
• Have board sign up to volunteer for various needs: ticket sales, backstage assistants, selling refreshments during intermission
• Publicize in school media, local newspaper, public service announcements
• Take pictures and send to the local paper acknowledging the PTA
• Have fun!!!
(Name of School) PTSA

Will hold auditions for

(Name of School’s) Got TALENT!

First Place wins $100.00
Second Place wins $50.00
Third Place wins $25.00

• Auditions will be held Friday, April 1st from 4 – 6 p.m. in the auditorium
• Microphones and piano will be provided during auditions.
• Must be a PTSA member to participate.

This event will take place April 13th in the auditorium beginning at 7:00 p.m.
National Teacher Appreciation Week

National Teacher Appreciation Week is the first full week in May.

Plan to host an event in your school and/or community to celebrate your teachers!

Don’t be limited to that one week! Because of state testing, many schools set aside a different week. Others honor their teachers throughout the year with themed lunches, Faculty Meeting snacks, Back-to-School breakfasts and small gifts.

This is a great way to get parents and community members (churches, local businesses) involved in your school! Working parents can send in snacks or drinks. Businesses can donate coupons or free samples. Churches could provide volunteers to cover lunch shifts.

Creativity is the key, not budget.
National PTA programs

National PTA provides free resources to implement programs that encourage growth and strength for your local PTA unit. Available from the national website, http://www.pta.org/programs/ or http://www.ptakit.org/Programs/ these program guides are user friendly and include activities, helpful evaluation tools, and tips to involve all the key players in a school community. The three main focus areas for these programs are family engagement in education, health & safety, and arts in education.

No other parent group can offer the credible, complete and all-inclusive programs to successfully engage families and communities all year round!
The goal of National PTA programs is to bring families together with school staff in a way that builds relationships and supports student success, while providing information that enriches children’s education and overall well-being. PTA’s National Standards for Family-School Partnerships were developed with national experts and reflect the most recent research about how parents, schools and communities can work together to support student achievement. They include the following:

- **Standard 1 - Welcoming All Families into the School Community.** Families are active participants in the life of the school and feel welcomed, valued and connected to each other, to school staff and to what students are learning and doing in class.

- **Standard 2 - Communicating Effectively.** Families and school staff engage in regular, two-way, meaningful communication about student learning.

- **Standard 3 - Supporting Student Success.** Families and school staff continuously collaborate to support students’ learning and healthy development, both at home and at school, and they have regular opportunities to strengthen their knowledge and skills to do so effectively.

- **Standard 4 - Speaking Up for Every Child.** Families are empowered to be advocates for all children to ensure that students are treated fairly and have access to learning opportunities that will support their success.

- **Standard 5 - Sharing Power.** Families and school staff are equal partners in decisions that affect children and families and together inform, influence and create policies, practices and programs.

- **Standard 6 - Collaborating With Community.** Families and school staff collaborate with community members to connect students, families and staff to expanded learning opportunities, community services and civic participation.
Family Engagement Programs

* Enrolling and participating in the National PTA School of Excellence certification process - a recognition program that supports and celebrates partnerships between PTAs and schools to enrich the educational experience and overall well-being for all students. Through the School of Excellence program, your PTA and school will gain new ways to engage families in school decision-making, such as improvements to programs, practices and policies related to education, health, safety or the arts. Enroll by October 1.

http://www.pta.org/excellence

PHOEBE APPERSON HEARST AWARD Each National PTA School of Excellence will automatically qualify to be considered for a Phoebe Apperson Hearst Award, which is National PTA’s highest honor and includes a $2,000 grant.

* Take Your Family to School Week. National PTA® Take Your Family to School Week is celebrated each February to pay tribute to PTA’s legacy, encourage strong family engagement and highlight the importance of partnerships among parents, teachers and school administrators in supporting student achievement. This annual celebration is timed to honor the day National PTA was founded: February 17, 1897. National PTA’s Take Your Family to School Week—February 15-19, 2016—will focus on the theme Supporting Student Success to promote family engagement solutions that are proven to help prevent the risks associated with high school dropout. The local guide book is here:


Grants are available from national PTA - www.PTA.org/awards

* PTA Family Reading Experience, Powered by Kindle. Family engagement and early literacy skills are two critical factors that determine children’s success, in school and beyond. PTA Family Reading Experience, Powered by Kindle is a national program that brings these two elements together by engaging families of children in Grades K–5 in fun, school-based literacy events. These special events are uniquely designed to teach parents about reading fundamentals and give them tools to help their children become better readers. Guide book is here:


In 2015, Kindle donated 1,000 Kindles to applying local PTAs (20 per school). Look for similar opportunities again in 2016.

Check out the “For Families” Tab on the National PTA website for other resources including The Male Engagement Network - PTA MORE (Men Organized to Raise Engagement) Guides for Student Success, a Special Education Toolkit as well as information on allergies & Anaphylaxis. Additional outstanding nonprofit organizations that have partnered with National PTA include 100 Black Men of America, Watch D.O.G.S. (Dads of Great Students), All Pro Dad, and Strong Fathers-Strong Families.
National Health & Safety Programs

- **Healthy Lifestyles** – The Healthy Lifestyles program provides family-centered education and tools that connect them with schools and advocate for healthy changes in nutrition and physical activity. Grants available to provide programs that encourage energy balance. The program includes:
  - **Improving Energy Balance Toolkit**: Provides local PTAs with tools and resources to use in partnering with schools and engaging families in addressing an everyday healthy lifestyle practice known as energy balance – balancing what we eat with exercise.
  - Celebrating a **Healthy Lifestyles Month**
  - **Fire Up Your Feet** fundraiser option
  - **Applying for Healthy Lifestyles Energy Balance 101 Grants**: National PTA offers $2,000 grant for PTAs in grades K-5 with tools and resources to use in partnering with schools to improve energy balance and provide families with nutrition and physical activity education. **Deadline**: June for the following school year.

- **Connect for Respect** - (C4R) is National PTA’s initiative to help students, parents and educators to create school climates full of safe and supportive peer relationships. Bullying prevention. The Guide book can be found here:
  

- **Healthy Habits Program** - Recognizing the importance of educating students about health and hygiene both in the classroom and at home, the National PTA, National Education Association (NEA), and LYSOL have partnered together to create the **Healthy Habits Program**. See this link for details: [http://www.lysol.com/our-mission/healthy-classroom/](http://www.lysol.com/our-mission/healthy-classroom/)

Links to additional nonprofit organizations dedicated to improving student health are available on the Healthy Lifestyles page at pta.org/programs/ including Fuel Up to Play 60 a grant program sponsored by the Dairy Council and the NFL.

For information on reducing child gun deaths and preventing gun violence programs see BeSMARTforKids.org and [www.everytown.org](http://www.everytown.org)

Check with your local hospital system to take advantage of community-wide programs they offer as well as grant opportunities. (LiveWell Greenville sponsored by Greenville Health Systems, Boeing Center for Children’s Wellness with Medical University of South Carolina).
* **Reflections** – Designed to enhance a quality arts education, the National PTA Reflections program provides opportunities for students to express themselves and to receive positive recognition for their artistic efforts. Students submit artwork based on a theme to their local PTAs. Entries are judged at the local level and winners advance to the district and/or state levels. State award recipients are recognized online, featured in promotion materials such as a commemorative wall calendar, and celebrated at the annual state Convention. Top state winners move on to the national round. National PTA recognizes awards recipients through scholarships, certificates, media promotion, and celebrations at National PTA’s Annual Convention and Exhibition and during a winter exhibit at the U.S. Department of Education.

Local PTA units must be in good standing to participate in Reflections.

Students may submit works in the following areas:

- Dance choreography
- Film production
- Literature
- Musical composition
- Photography
- Visual Arts (new for 2015-16, 3D entries are now accepted).

Age Divisions:

- Primary, preschool – 2nd grade
- Intermediate – grades 3 – 5
- Middle School – grades 6 – 8
- High School – grades 9 – 12
- Special Artists – for developmentally or physically challenged students, all grade levels

Go to scpta.org for a complete **Local Leader’s Guide** as well as link to the national Reflections Toolkit, Rules, and promotion materials.

* Kick off with National Arts in Education Week, September 14-18; more information at pta.org/reflections
* State turn-in **February 6, 2016**
* State Awards Ceremony, **April 16, 2016**
**Reflections Theme Search Contest**

National PTA sponsors a student-focused Theme Search Contest annually to determine a future Reflections program theme. Every fall, students submit their innovative concepts to state PTAs. Each state may submit five potential theme ideas to the National round of the contest. A panel of teachers, Reflections chairs, and arts professionals review all the South Carolina submissions and pick the top five. Students who submit the state’s five selected submissions will be recognized at the state Reflections Awards ceremony. National PTA announces the selected theme the following spring. The winner for the 2015-2016 school year will be selected in January 2016 and will receive $100 from National PTA and recognition at the Annual PTA Convention.

This is a great way for a local unit to start your Reflections program or to build excitement for your existing program.

Reflections Theme Search Contest submissions due to state chair by **November 20, 2015**

**Mary Lou Anderson Reflections Arts Enhancement Grants.**

At the end of each academic year, National PTA issues a request for proposals to PTA/PTSAs that want to take arts education to the next level. A limited number of matching grants of up to $1,000 are awarded in the fall to PTA/PTSAs providing in-school and afterschool programs to enhance arts education. PTAs serving at-risk student populations are particularly encouraged to apply. For projects starting in the 2016-17 school year, applications will be available in January 2016 and due **Friday, March 11, 2016.**
Monthly Program Ideas

September – Arts in Education Week; Voter Registration Week

October – Drug Awareness (Red Ribbon Week); deadline to enroll in Schools of Excellence program

November – Healthy Lifestyles Month; American Education Week

February – Take your Family to School

March – Reading Month

April – Alcohol Awareness

May – Teacher & Military Appreciation; Mental Health month

June – energy balance grants due

Ideas to Build PTA Membership

- “Sweet Deals” for joining – fresh baked cookies
- Coupon book with deals from within the school or surrounding community
- Gift certificates for the teacher collecting the most memberships within a set period of time
- Progress “thermometer” posted in the hallway
- Stage friendly competitions and: Girls vs. boys, lower grades vs upper grades,
- Set goals and offer a fun reward– reach 100% by November PTA meeting and Principal will kiss a pig, be ducktaped to wall, etc.
- Recognitions for the first classes or grade levels to reach 100% membership:
  - VIP lunch experience in a “private” dining room (think library with table cloths & flowers)
  - Passes to eat outside with a friend
  - Cut to front of lunch line for a week
  - Extra recess time
  - Kudos on the school “News program” or in-house TV news
- Membership tables at Freshman Orientation, Meet the Teacher & Open House
- Host a meeting/presentation highlighting all the national business partner benefits to members
  www. pta.org/benefits (Boxed.com, Hertz, LifeLock, Met Life, Staples, Sylvan Learning, Teen Safe, AARP)
- Have drawings at each PTA meeting from lists of paid members for doorprizes (school shirt, gift cards, front row seats to school performances/concerts, gas station gift cards). Theme – “Membership has it’s privileges”
- PTA sponsored back-to-school breakfast for teachers & staff
- Theme “What you get for the Money” with a description of the many things your PTA has done to benefit students. Update constantly.
- Offer teacher mini-grants as an incentive to join
- ASK! Personally ask dads, grandparents, staff, long-term substitutes, tutors, community volunteers, neighborhood associations