



The Student Leader – November 2012

The newsletter of the oldest state student leadership organization in the nation.

Take a Risk!

As an adviser, have you ever had one of your student leaders come to you and ask if they should run for a particular office? Perhaps the student expressed misgivings about their chances to win, or how good a job that they will do if elected. Like all great advisers, I am certain that you encouraged this student to run for office. We often tell our students that they will never know if they can succeed, if they never try. We encourage the students to take the risk.

So....I am encouraging you to take the risk with your student councils and state leadership. We have three leadership workshops coming up soon! We have information about these events on our website and in this newsletter. Take the risk of attending a leadership workshop and you may just gain some great new ideas. Take the risk of attending the VSCA Convention! The VSCA Convention, the highlight of student leadership in Virginia, is scheduled for April 12 - 14 in Williamsburg.

Included in this issue is an announcement about our VSCA Convention Keynote speaker. Also, look for articles on the VSCA Achievement Award and involvement on the state level. I would encourage every SCA to apply for the Achievement Award and to consider pursuing leadership opportunities at the state level.

I have encouraged you to take risks with student leadership. I would also like to encourage you to try some of the project ideas in this newsletter. Please give me feedback on any of the activities you attempt. Also, if you have a great idea that you have tried and is not already listed, please submit the idea. I always LOVE printing the great ideas of student leaders and advisers of Virginia in this newsletter.

Don't forget this year's theme: VSCA: Steering the LEADership Forward.

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Upcoming Events:

Regional Leadership Workshops:

Region 1- Jan. 12 – Prince George H.S

Region 2- Dec. 15 – Grassfield H.S..

Region 4 – Dec. 8 – Park View H.S.

Region 5 -8- TBD – Buckingham H.S.

VSCA Convention – April 12 - 14

Here is some general information about VSCA Leadership Workshops:

Virginia Association of Secondary School Principals
Department of Student Leadership

LEADERSHIP WORKSHOPS

10:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

We are pleased to offer leadership workshops for VSCA member and non-member schools. These workshops have been designed to assist schools in developing leadership potential in students, to promote leadership learning, and to foster regional and statewide networking opportunities. These workshops will also help to prepare students for leadership roles in the future by teaching essential skills.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND? Any elementary, middle and high school student leaders and advisers—including SCA, and other Co-Curricular Clubs and Organizations.

WHAT WILL WE LEARN? This workshop will offer leadership training and idea exchange in the following areas: Team Building, Ice Breakers, Goal Setting, Project Planning and Evaluation, Parliamentary Procedure, Roles of Officers, and Motivation (motivating leaders and participants).

HOW MANY STUDENTS MAY ATTEND? There is no limit to the number of students or advisers that may attend. Advisers are encouraged to accompany middle and high school students.

HOW MUCH DOES THE WORKSHOP COST? The workshop fee is \$15 per person for VSCA member schools and \$25 per person for nonmember schools and includes registration, materials, sessions and lunch. Additionally, for every ten (10) students attending from your school, one (1) adviser may attend for free!

WHEN AND WHERE WILL THE WORKSHOP BE HELD? Please visit www.scaleader.org.

PRELIMINARY AGENDA

10:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. **Registration**

10:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. **Opening Session**

10:45 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. **Skill Workshop 1**

11:30 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. **Skill Workshop 2**

12:15 p.m. – 12:45 p.m. **Lunch**

12:45 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. **Skill Workshop 3**

1:30 p.m. – 2:15 p.m. **Skill Workshop 4**

2:15 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. **Closing Session**

VSCA CONVENTION ANNOUNCEMENT:

MR PHIL TO BE KEYNOTE SPEAKER

One of the most influential and active voices for student leadership for the past thirty years is Mr. Phil and the Virginia Student Councils Association is pleased to announce that he will be our keynote speaker for the 2013 Convention.

Mr. Phil has spoken across the country to numerous student leadership organizations. He conducted many seminars and workshops at state leadership conventions. Mr. Phil has often been featured at the National Association of Student Councils Conference.

Mr. Phil has an engaging speaking style. He challenges student leaders to go above and beyond and reach out to others. Mr. Phil encourages and promotes student leadership that embraces all students. The message that Mr. Phil brings even engages advisers. Mr. Phil is that rare speaker who can communicate a meaningful message to students and adults. The Virginia Student Councils Association is honored to have such an accomplished talent coming to our Convention in 2013.

The VSCA Achievement Award: Why You Should Apply!

State Theme: VSCA: Steering the LEADership Forward

Every Student Council should apply for the VSCA Achievement Award. The Achievement Award is not as difficult as you might think to get. Many student councils do so much more than is required by the stipulations of the Achievement Award.

In order to receive the Achievement Award, an SCA must have at least one activity that fits in with the theme. The VSCA theme for 2012 – 2013 is VSCA: Steering the LEADership Forward. In addition, the SCA must do seven more additional activities if they are a high school, six if they are a middle school SCA, and five if they are an elementary school. The application form lists many different and varied activities that qualify.

To apply for the VSCA Achievement Award go to www.scaleader.org. On the website, find the link to the Achievement Award. It is included in the Convention Awards packet. Print this out and follow the instructions. All schools that are awarded the Achievement Award are recognized at the VSCA Convention.

PARTICIPATION AT THE STATE LEVEL GET INVOLVED!

The VSCA Advisory Committee Needs You!

If you would like to take your leadership to the next level, I would encourage you to consider getting involved on the state level with the Virginia Student Councils Association Advisory Committee.

The VSCA Advisory Committee is made up of a President School, Vice President School, Secretary School, eight Regional Representative Schools at the High School level, three middle school representatives, and three elementary school representatives. In addition, there are appointed member schools. The members of the advisory committee are elected at the annual VSCA Convention. While there is an individual student and adviser that serve on the advisory committee for each elected position, they are actually representing their entire student council from their school.

Involvement on the VSCA Advisory Committee allows students to take an active role in guiding student leadership across the state. These student leaders are instrumental in planning the state convention and leadership workshops. Service projects and other ideas are formulated by the student leaders on the VSCA Advisory Committee.

If you have any interest in running for a state office, pay attention to www.scaleader.org. Applications and information about these offices will be posted by late November.

Reaching Out

Reaching out is a section of the newsletter which will feature service projects. Here is a sampling of projects from the web. In order for this section to be successful, students and advisers need to share their ideas with the VSCA Director at mnelson@scaleader.org.

1. **Blanket Challenge:**

Challenge your Homecoming rival to see which school can bring the most blankets to the game. Set up collection boxes marked with each team's name outside the gate and have people put their donations in the box corresponding to their school. During the first half of the game, have students from both schools count the blankets and announce a winner during the second half of the game. Donate the blankets to a local homeless shelter.

2. **Food scavenger hunt:**

Still another food-related idea is to create a food collection scavenger hunt as part of the class competition. At a designated time after school one day, provide class officers from each class with a list of food items and quantities. They are responsible for organizing class members to disperse and find as many of the items as possible in the time allowed. Award spirit points to the first, second, and third place classes.

3. **CAN apalooza:**

On a designated day, have each class create a sculpture made of food cans that displays an artistic design relating to your Homecoming theme. Have a team of judges rate the creations and award points in the spirit week competition.

4. **Hat and Mitten tree:**

This is a great middle level project. For the hat and mitten tree, the 6, 7, and 8, grade students are asked to bring in new winter hats and gloves. At the end of each day of this weekly process, a student council representative from each of the three grades hangs up the mittens and gloves on a Christmas tree in front of the main office. At the end of the week, the mittens and gloves are given to either local children's home or various other churches.

5. **Earth Day outdoor classroom:**

Every year on Earth Day, the student council members do an outdoor project. For the past couple of years one school has worked on the outdoor classroom. On Earth day, the SCA that did this project comes to school with rakes, plastic bags, and outdoor work attire and they clean the agricultural outdoor classroom. The SCA made sure to get approval from the administration. At the SCA meeting, the students divided up what was needed to be brought in. All members came to the auditorium for morning attendance. Then the SCA went outside and began to rake, pick up trash, and move branches. This created a space outside that classes could use for instruction.

6. Clothing Drive:

For this fundraiser, The Fashion Republic, the company one SCA was going through would pay \$0.13 per pound for clothes, bikes, hard toys, and stuffed animals, and \$0.15 per pound for shoes. These various items that were donated were given to third world countries, such as Kenya, Haiti, etc., in exchange for money, which they then donated to The Spread the Magic Foundation. First, for the planning, the SCA president talked to the principal to get approval. Next, they started to search around for storage places that would donate a 10ftx20ft bin to store all of the trash bags in. After that, the SCA made the flyers to be handed out to the students and were to be hung around the town and neighboring towns. The SCA then arranged for the drop-off to be in the school's parking lot to make it more convenient because there was plenty of room. Finally, the student council asked for volunteers who could stay after for the various drop off days to help out.

7. Pink out for Cancer:

Here are a collection of activities for the anti-cancer crusade: Wall of Remembrance: Remembrance cut out basketballs were sold for \$1 to remember those who have cancer, those who have survived cancer, and those who have family members who are cancer victims. The basketballs were displayed on the wall outside the gym. Pink out t-shirts: Shirt orders were sent out for the students. The response was overwhelming. The shirts were ordered and then distributed. On Pink out Day the students, teachers and staff wore the shirts to school and that night individuals wore the shirts to the basketball game. Everywhere someone looked in the stands, they could see pink. Paper Airplane Contest: At the basketball game, paper was sold for \$1 to make paper airplanes. Each participant made an airplane and put their name on it. During half time of the Varsity Boys game, each threw the airplane to see who could get closest to the \$20 that was in the middle of the court. The winner was announced. All proceeds went to the American Cancer Society.

Spirit Links

Spirit Links is a section of the newsletter which will feature school spirit projects. Here is a sampling of projects from the Web. In order for this section to be successful, students and advisers need to share their ideas with the VSCA Director at mnelson@scaleader.org.

1. Tailgate Party:

Tailgate parties are usually associated with college and professional football games, but they can easily be made a part of the high school tradition as well. Hold yours about two hours before the homecoming game. Have the DJ play music in the parking lot and put on a barbeque and bake sale for folks who don't want to bring their own food. You might want to remind students that school rules are in effect, similar to school dances.

2. Decorated Storefronts:

Encourage local businesses to get into the spirit by decorating their storefronts with slogans and school colors to go with the Homecoming theme. Award a plaque to the business that does the best job.

3. Glow for it:

Give out free glow sticks to everyone in the stands at the Homecoming game to help the team “glow” for a victory.

4. Red and Black Show:

The Red and Black Show involves a group of students from every grade level that put on a short skit based off their spirit week theme. The skits are also to reflect the homecoming football game and our school mascot, the redbird. Each class uses their creativity to entertain the audience. The skits can include any talents such as dancing, singing, acting, comedy and anything else the classes feel are appropriate towards their theme. Skits also include props, scenery, and costumes. Some classes choose to prerecord their skits, making it easier for them, thus no one has to remember lines. During the night of the show, student council also sells and collects tickets, monitors the show and introduces each class. Two student council members host the show, these members give the audience a summary of each skit to help fill in the gap between acts.

Dollar Signs

Dollar Signs is a section of the newsletter which will feature fundraising projects. Here is a sampling of projects from the Web. In order for this section to be successful, students and advisers need to share their ideas with the VSCA Director at mnelson@scaleader.org.

1. Breakfast with Santa:

Children and parents come to enjoy a delicious breakfast, coloring contests, as well as to have the opportunity to take a picture with Santa. Crafts and face painting are also available. This year, one school had Chad the magician at their breakfast to perform a magic show. It was a tremendous hit and they do not know how we will top it next year. The event was held from 9 – 11 am. The cost was \$5 per person. The cafeteria staff donated their time, so all SCA had to pay for was the food. SCA members arrived at around 8 to decorate the cafeteria. A Christmas tree was decorated, a craft area was set up, tables were organized, candy canes were set out for the children and a special area for pictures with Santa was arranged. A SCA member served as head waiter and all other members were servers, with one member taking on the role of Santa and one member taking on the role of an elf. Once the family had finished eating breakfast their child could participate in the craft activities, have their face painted, enter the coloring contest or visit with Santa. The children loved the entire program!

2. All-Night Volleyball Tournament:

One high school student council sponsored an all-night volleyball tournament as a fundraiser for a Children’s Hospital. The group raised about \$1,000 by charging teams a minimum \$40 donation to play. More than 200 students participated. The tournament started on a Friday night at 11 p.m. and ended about 6:00 the following morning. Teams played in a league format for several hours before

a double-elimination tournament began. Teams were co-ed and were required to have at least two boys or two girls on the floor at all times. A faculty team also joined in the fun. Between volleyball games, participants could eat, watch movies, or play other games. Once students arrived at the tournament they were not permitted to leave until the end.

3. Kidnap the Coach:

On the Thursday of Homecoming week, kidnap the football coach and announce that he won't be returned unless a certain amount of money is raised. Have students collect money between classes and at lunch, and make announcements throughout the day about how much has been raised. This can be a great money maker and be a great deal of fun!

4. Cardboard Boat Regatta:

A unique fundraiser at one high school near the coast involves both students and faculty members in a cardboard boat regatta. Teams of two pay an entry fee of \$15 and submit a registration form with parent signatures to enter a boat made only of cardboard and duct tape. Teams race across two laps of the pool, paddling with homemade oars made of anything--wood, frying pans, etc. A racing lane is two swimming lanes wide, so organizers run heats of three boats at a time. To keep the atmosphere lively, an emcee plays music during the race and keeps the crowd entertained between heats with raffles of donated movie tickets and gift certificates. Spectators pay \$4 to attend the event. Participants try to place for Fastest Boat and Most Creative Boat. The Most Creative Boat is judged on theme, boat shape, enthusiasm, costumes, and originality. Boats can only be constructed with duct tape and cardboard, but can be decorated with flags, stuffed animals, and other items. The first place teams in both categories receive trophies, and second and third place teams for Fastest Boat receive medals. Each participant receives a complimentary regatta T-shirt with sponsor logos on the back. This is truly a unique event.

5. Kiss for Make-A-Wish:

Boys and girls at one high school pay \$1 to kiss a card in a unique fundraiser organized by the student council. The cards are put on display and students pay 25 cents to vote on the best kiss. The boy and girl who get the most votes are crowned Mr. and Ms. Irresistible at the Valentine's dance. All proceeds go to the Make-A-Wish foundation.

6. Have a Heart:

During the week before Valentine's Day, student council members at one high school sell red paper hearts for \$1. Students choose what name they want written on the heart. On Valentine's Day they are passed out to the students and they wear them all day. At the end of the day a name is called and whoever has that heart wins a prize. All proceeds go to the Interfaith Association.

Quotes to Inspire

"If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader."
- John Quincy Adams

Talent wins games, but teamwork and intelligence wins championships.
Michael Jordan

To me, teamwork is the beauty of our sport, where you have five acting as one. You become selfless.
Mike Krzyzewski

If you can't feed a hundred people, then feed just one.
Mother Teresa

Do your little bit of good where you are; its those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world.
Desmond Tutu

Let us not seek the Republican answer or the Democratic answer, but the right answer. Let us not seek to fix the blame for the past. Let us accept our own responsibility for the future.
John F. Kennedy

And finally...

Please continue to send in great ideas so wonderful activities of great student leaders can be shared with student councils throughout the state. Please submit ideas to Mike Nelson, VSCA Director at mnelson@scaleader.org, and he will try to get as many ideas as possible in our monthly newsletters.

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This newsletter was posted on the VSCA Website at www.scaleader.org.