



The Student Leader

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

LEADING THROUGH SERVICE

The school year is more than half over, yet the opportunities for student leadership through service continue at a torrid pace. As Student Council advisers and student representatives, we are all looking for new service project ideas. This newsletter includes a number of new, or new to you, service projects that just might work for your Student Council.

Service projects give students a chance to not only learn valuable leadership skills, but also to see how their leadership benefits the community and the world around them. Many service projects unite student leaders and give them a renewed sense of purpose.

Uniting and encouraging students is what service projects are all about and what the VSCA Convention is all about. Don't forget to get all of your information in for Convention. Don't forget about our great guest speaker, Mike Smith, who will speak at the adviser luncheon, as well as speaking to the entire Convention. And, most importantly, don't forget about the opportunity (for the first time ever) that the students will have to speak directly with members of the Virginia Board of Education.

New service projects and the excitement of our VSCA Convention will make 2011 the best year yet for student leadership in the Commonwealth!

Don't forget...These Important Dates!

February 18	Postmark Deadline for: Early Registration Deadline
March 4	Postmark Deadline for: Achievement Award Administrator of the Year Adviser of the Year Call for Presentations Registration Deadline Hotel Registration Deadline
April 1 – 3	85 th Annual VSCA State Convention, Williamsburg

Mike Nelson, VSCA Director

VSCA State Office

Mike Nelson, VSCA
Director
904.370.0822 (direct)
mnelson@scaleader.org

4909 Cutshaw Avenue
Richmond, VA 23230
804.355.4263 (phone)
804.355.4262 (fax)

www.scaleader.org

LEADERSHIP WORKSHOPS

All of the Regional Leadership Workshops for the 2010 – 2011 school year have taken place. The many students who participated in these workshops gained valuable insights and experience that will help them develop their leadership potential. Articles about these workshops will appear in upcoming issues of the Student Leader.

****More Workshops to come in 2011 – 2012!**

VSCA STATE CONVENTION

April 1-3, 2011

Williamsburg Marriott

Williamsburg, VA

****Register for the VSCA State Convention. The deadline is **March 4th**.****

****State Convention will be held at the Williamsburg Marriott
April 1-3, 2011.****

****Elementary, Middle and High Schools are included.****

****State Convention features team building activities, opportunities to learn from other students and advisers, motivational speakers, a state service project, workshops on numerous SCA topics, an awards banquet, a dance, opportunities to network with students and advisers from your region and other parts of the state, state officer campaigns and elections, and resolution workshops. This is far from a complete list of all the exciting opportunities at Convention.****

****Convention really helps to unite student councils and give them a sense of purpose. For many advisers, attending the VSCA State Convention is an indispensable activity for their student leaders.****

****More information is posted at www.scaleader.org.****

2011 CALL FOR PRESENTATIONS

**Virginia Student Councils Association
85th Annual State Convention**

“VSCA: Dedicated to a New Decade”

**Williamsburg Marriott, 50 Kingsmill Road, Williamsburg, Virginia
April 1 – 3, 2011**

The Virginia Student Councils Association invites you to submit ideas for a Concurrent Session to be considered for inclusion in the Annual State Convention. Presentations are selected by a program review committee of your peers and are evaluated on the timeliness of the topic, overall interest, a well-defined description, and relevance to a particular convention strand. Final selections and notifications of acceptance will be made by March 11. If you have any questions, please call the VSCA State Office at 804-355-4263.

*****Call for Presentations forms must be postmarked by March 4, 2011 to be considered for acceptance.**

****Please keep in mind that all presenters will be on a contributing basis, that is, they**

will not be financially reimbursed for registration, travel, lodging, etc.

**In submitting your proposal, please be as specific as possible, especially in the title and description of your presentation. The title should be descriptive of the program content. If your proposal is accepted, the 50-75 word "program copy" description will be used in the final conference program (subject to editing), providing the basis upon which attendees select their sessions. Also, please write this description with the reader in mind.

**Please check the VSCA Web site at www.scaleader.org for more information and the Call for Presentations form.

THE NEW VSCA WEBSITE IS NOW LIVE!

www.scaleader.org

Great news! The long-awaited VSCA Web site is now up and running. All of the Convention forms are available for download, as well as Convention updates and other important VSCA information. Go to www.scaleader.org to visit the new site.

The site is a work-in-progress and we welcome your input. Please let me know if you have questions, comments, or suggestions concerning information you'd like to see published on the site.

Mike Nelson, Director
Virginia School Councils Association
804.370.0822 (Direct line)
mnelson@scaleader.org

Reaching Out

Reaching out is a section of the newsletter which will feature service projects. 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. Dance for Pants:** In this activity, students can gain admission to the dance with a clothing donation instead of paying money for a ticket; and the clothing collected is donated to a local domestic violence shelter. The name of the event gained much attention from the student body. The planning of the event did require the SCA to locate donations to help reduce the costs of the DJ and the decorations.
- 2. Veterans Day 5K:** In honor of Veterans Day the Student Council put together a 5K race for members and veterans of the community, as well as students at the school. The SCA worked with a local athletic apparel store that was more than happy to donate all the supplies for the runners. Other sponsors were located in the community, as well. On the day of the race, the Student Council members did all the set up, so they had to arrive early that day. Many student council members participated alongside their families. Many veterans of the community participated in both the race and ceremonies. The race sign-up fee was \$20 or \$25 on race day. All the proceeds went to a Veterans Memorial Fund. A total of 70 runners signed up and \$1,415 was donated by the SCA that organized this activity.
- 3. Good Health:** During the beginning of December, one high school Student Council sent members to some middle school P.E. classes to perform a skit and play a game with the students while informing them about the importance of good health habits. They emphasized the importance for everyone to visit the doctors and get shots because of the upcoming influenza season and well as practicing general hygiene habits such as showering daily and making sure to keep hands clean. Performing the silly skit also showed how being "germy" would affect one's social life as well. Most of all the 6th graders enjoyed the game they played with them, "germ freeze tag", which was just a made-up form of freeze tag with a spin. This project was a great way of spreading health awareness and was also a lot of fun.
- 4. Anti-Smoking Campaign:** For this project the SCA needed butcher paper, tape, posters, scissors, markers, and chalk, which SCA members used to make giant realistic replicas of cigarettes in different colors. A few examples include adding red paper at the tips, representing that the cigarette was ignited, as well as writing some well-known cigarette brand names and logos. Other members worked on posters with facts about tobacco abuse. The posters and cigarettes were taped in the main lobby so students could observe and learn from the display.
- 5. Healthy Eating:** One Student Council decided to take action to encourage healthy minds, bodies, and spirits with the Breakfast Bar Activity. Breakfast Bar is a new, beneficial method of raising awareness for healthy at-home-cooking. With the assistance of www.acaloriecounter.com, the students are invited to take part in an activity in which students make goods (hors d'oeuvres/snacks) with as little caloric content as possible. All participants bring goods, and judging is done by the teachers. Both caloric value and taste are taken into consideration during judging. Participants must provide an ingredient list (a recipe book with classmates' recipes will be provided at a future date). By doing this project, students can encourage others to modulate their current ways of eating.
- 6. Veteran's Photo Wall:** This project was done in honor of Veterans for Veteran's Day. A few weeks before Veteran's Day, students and staff were asked to donate pictures of their family members who are currently serving or have served in the United States Armed Forces. Many photos were donated. Staff members had photos of themselves when they served years earlier; teachers had children who were currently serving. Students brought in photos of their grandparents or great-grandparents. The photos were mounted on red, white, and blue construction paper. Information about the person was written below the photo (name, name of student they are related to, date of photo, branch of service, wars in which they were involved). The photos were mounted so they resembled an American flag with the blue-backed photos being in the upper left-hand corner, and the red-backed and white-backed photos creating the stripes. This display was put in the front entry way of our school. More than 75 photos were collected; the oldest one dated back to the Civil War. The photo flag started out small, but it grew as each new group of photos came in. Students and staff enjoyed looking at the large variety of photos and different uniforms. It became a history

lesson. It was amazing how many students had relatives that were veterans. This patriotic display was up during Election Day. Since our school is a voting site, voters could admire the photos. This was a great, low cost project which really helped the middle school students understand the meaning of Veteran's Day.

7. **Veteran's Day Appreciation:** The SCA in this activity needed the following resources: auditorium, foyer, chairs, stands, podium, programs, projector, cart, laptop, white screen, sound room, laptop computer. First they chose a date for a Veterans Day Assembly and secured the auditorium. Then they planned out the assembly and secured the band, orchestra, and choir to perform. Next the SCA recruited speakers from the community that have served in the military to be guest speakers. The SCA made sure to determine which faculty members had served in the military for special recognition during the assembly. Invitations were sent to teachers and the administration. A sign-up sheet for teachers to bring their classes was sent out. It was a great success!
8. **Intro to World Music:** In this activity, the SCA wanted to introduce students to different styles of music from around the world. It was very important to have school administrators and the Student Council members work together on this. The resources needed were several CDs of various genres. In this activity parts of songs were played over the morning announcements, and each week had a different theme. On Monday mornings, a paragraph was read about the style of music.

Advice for Student Leaders

While doing some research for this newsletter, I discovered some great information on the [Oklahoma Student Councils](#) Web site for advisers that I shared in the last three newsletters. I then discovered great advice for student leaders, too, so I thought I would share:

Challenges of a Student Leader (after being elected!)

As a newly elected officer, you must:

- Remember all the promises that you made during elections
- Fully achieve what you pledged yourself to do
- Keep in mind that leadership is service to your organization

You are expected to:

- Be knowledgeable about most subjects, projects and available resources.
- Spend your time planning, organizing and implementing
- Be involved with most aspects of the organization
- Work with the organization's officers, advisers and members

You will be:

- Revered, admired, cheered, loved, maligned mimicked, ridiculed-but you are expected to lead within this context
- Walking the tight wire between right-wrong; best-worst; greatness-pettiness; humility-pride; laughter-tears; achievement-mistakes
- Continuously expected to serve as a role model, in and out of school

You can succeed by:

- Honestly recognizing your challenges and parameters – vaccinated with hope, dedication, worth, a sense of value, and total understanding
- Learning to laugh at yourself and learning from the mistakes you make

- Being conscious of the basic human dignity and the worth of others
- Knowing your role and the role of others in the organization and school

Challenge to Adopt A School: A Project for every VSCA school to consider

I put this in the last newsletter, but I am including it again because it is SO important: Many of you reading this letter already recognize the benefits of membership in the Virginia Student Councils Association. Perhaps, you are like me, and as an SCA advisor you have seen your student leaders improve as leaders through their involvement in VSCA activities. Maybe you are a student leader who has made great memories at the annual VSCA Convention. Since you have benefitted from VSCA, I would encourage you to “adopt a school” to join and become active in VSCA. Pick a neighboring school or a feeder school. Encourage them to join VSCA and tell them how it has benefitted your school and your SCA. Your positive outreach and encouragement could get them involved in VSCA and could quite possibly revolutionize the student leaders at their school.

Quotes to Inspire

I hope that some of these quotes may give you some “reflective moments” and provide some encouragement:

“May this journey perfect you in every virtue – that you might become a living example of the ‘finest’ which our civilization is capable of producing – A LEADER.” Dr. Earl Reum

“Things may come to those who wait, but only the things left by those who hustle.” Abraham Lincoln

“A leader is one who knows the way, goes the way, and shows the way.” John C. Maxwell

And finally...

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

Contact Information:

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Fax: 804.355.4262

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