



Learning to Live in a Technical World

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Aubrey Hudson

Aubrey is proud to be serving as our 2011-2012 State President after 5 years of TSA experience. She enjoys creating videos for competitions, watching/going to movies, and going to the beach in her spare time. She is involved in National English Honor Society, National Honor Society, National Technology Honor Society, and FBLA. Her favorite color is red, and she is a huge animal lover! She can't wait to see you at Leadership!

A Letter from your President

Florida TSA,

Are you ready for another incredible year? The 2011-2012 State Officer Team is proud to present this year's leadership conference. We would like to encourage all of you to bring your chapters and participate in all the beneficial leadership activities. At leadership students will make friends that will last a lifetime, grow as leaders, and participate in hands-on activities that put every individual to the test!

Florida TSA was not only a success at the National TSA competition in Dallas, Texas, but the number one state in the nation! The hard work and dedication of every member in TSA shined through in all competitive events. Florida TSA was one of the few states that cheered when one of our middle or high school teams placed! Everyone there should be proud to be a part of such an extraordinary team.

Starting back to school is one of the hardest times of the year for your chapter. Recruiting new members and involving the returning ones is plenty of work. Through TSA activities and your enthusiasm other people will want to be a part of this great organization! After all, we wouldn't be Florida TSA without you!

See you at the leadership conference!

Aubrey Hudson



Achi Jones

Achi is in his 5th year of TSA and is very excited to be serving as your Vice President. He is currently a junior at Palm Bay High School and enjoys playing guitar, video games, and hanging out with friends. Besides TSA, he is also involved in National Honor Society, Mu Alpha Theta, and his school's Robotics team. He is thankful for the votes that came his way and is hoping to meet as many of you as he can at Leadership.

Daniel Norrell

Daniel is excited to be your 2011-2012 State Treasurer. He is a Junior at Lake Region High School, where he is president of his class. In addition, he is a representative for his chapter of National Honor society, and he is secretary for his Spanish National Honor Society. In what little free time he enjoys, he often can be found playing video games. He can't wait to meet you at the Leadership and State Conferences.

A New Date for State

Article by Achi Jones



As many have heard already, State Conference for 2012 has a new date. Rather than being in late April as it typically is, this year's State will take place in February, from the 22nd to the 25th. I'm sure this is a shock to some of you. "What? It's three months earlier? How will I get my projects done?" Well, the trick for this year is to start early. In the past, Leadership Conference was a sort of kickoff for some chapters to start their projects. Well, Leadership is still in November this year, but your "kickoff" may have to be in August or September. Having State Conference in February isn't really a bad thing. Having it in February will allow all competitors to truly enjoy their Spring Break, rather than worrying about their projects. Instead of spending all day working on a project needed for

State, you can now hit the beach with your friends! Also, having State in February means that it won't conflict with any tests, most notably the AP exams. Not only that, but perhaps Florida will have an even greater presence at Nationals! We will have more time to improve our State projects and raise funds. Looking forward to seeing all of you at the 2012 FL TSA State Conference!

TSA Attire Change

Hello, Florida TSA, a formal attire change has been put into place by the TSA National Officers. At the beginning of the opening session at the National TSA conference, TSA National Officers walked onto the stage, wearing a new, long sleeved shirt. This shirt was a royal blue shirt with the TSA logo embroidered on the left breast. For the female attire the shirt comes fitted and can be worn with the collar open without the neck tie. Feelings for the new attire change ranged from the positive to negative. The change is to this blue shirt and our blazer instead of the white shirt and blazer. It will be phased in over the next three years, but no matter our feelings the change is here. The price is \$30.00 with the option of a discount with a larger quantity buy. The Florida delegation strongly opposed the way the change was put into place, but was unable to change the outcome. The national board of directors will take into consideration the objection to how the change occurred, but will not revisit the decision. Shirts can now be purchased on the national web site through E-group.



How to Start Your Year

by Rudy Laprade

A new school year has arrived, and you know what that means, TSA time! As always, starting at the beginning of the year will give you an edge over those teams that wait a bit longer to get to work. This year, starting early is even more crucial. With the date of the state conference moved earlier, there will be less time for recruiting members, team building, fundraising, and completing projects. Making a plan to elect officers, recruit members and then get an early start on projects will allow you to get those projects done early so they can be reviewed and improved before competition. In the past, there have been those of us who have waited until March or April to start our projects. With state conference now in February, these same methods will not quite work. However, starting just a couple months earlier than the classic month of March or April is a bad idea. January is *not* the new month for starting projects; you heard it here first. There are those who have complete projects at competition, and those who do not. There are those who start early in the year, and those who do not. The choice is yours as to which category you will fall into, but I highly recommend the former.



Rudy Laprade

Rudy is now in 11th grade at Palm Bay High School in Brevard County. He started his TSA career when he was in 7th grade at Southwest Middle School. In the past four years, he has grown to greatly appreciate the many experiences and lessons TSA can give to its members. As your secretary, he is looking forward to another amazingly fun year of TSA.

Why Come to Leadership?

by Charles Smith



Each year, Florida TSA hosts a Leadership Conference, where school officers come to learn how to lead their chapters. Each year, a few chapters decide to stop coming to Leadership, especially this year, when there is so little time to fundraise between Leadership and State conference. Nevertheless, I implore you to join us at the State Leadership conference. Not only does it teach leadership skills, it helps teach your officers --who may very well be new to TSA- how to run their chapter. In addition, it gives them the tools and ideas on how to plan ahead, keep everyone on track, and organize events.

While leadership may seem like a boring conference when it's described like it is above, it also has an element of fun. Students who attend are able to participate in mock competitions including problem solving and structural engineering design. The rest of your time however, is not spent doing either of these, but rather in family groups. These groups allow you to see leaders from other chapters, and how they think and lead. At the end of the week, all of these groups compete in our Alligon bowl, a series of games made to test how well your new group has bonded. Leadership is a mix of learning and of fun, and it can help your chapter build their edge in TSA.

Charles Smith

Charles, is in his third year of TSA. His constant exposure to state officers from other schools in Brevard county inspired to run for state office and make a change in TSA. He is currently a sophomore at Bayside High School. Outside of TSA, he is an active participant in Marching Band, robotics, Mu Alpha Theta, HAM radio, and his local youth group. He looks forward to this year, and hopes he can change TSA for the better with your help.



Changes in Middle School Events

by Kyle Dotson

Kyle Dotson

Kyle is excited to be your 2011-2012 Sergeant at Arms. He has been in TSA for just over three years and is ready to help lead Florida TSA. He is a sophomore at Middleburg High School. He plays golf almost everyday, and when he is not golfing he hangs out with his friends. He loves to swim, and play a good game of beach volleyball. He does a lot of TSA competitive events, but his favorite is Flight Endurance. He thanks Florida TSA for their support and is looking forward to seeing you at Leadership.

The New Year has arrived and is full of opportunities, are you ready? As some of you might know, the rules for TSA competitive events change every two years. This is one of those years for the middle schools. With the new rule change come name changes and other important things you should be looking out for as you read the new competitive guide. As of this year, TSA cup: Marine Challenge and Robot TOBOR are no longer competitive events at TSA conferences. There have also been several competitive event name changes that you should be on the lookout for, such as ZAP IT! which is now called Electrical Applications.

Graphic Design will now be called Promotional Design. Technical Drawing which will now be referred to as Technical Design. These are just three of the several changed names of TSA competitive events. Find a full list Middle School events in the new CMG. Be sure to keep in mind these rule and name changes when working on your competitive events. These new changes are sure to bring a new competitive edge to Florida TSA as well as much excitement and enjoyment. I hope you all are looking forward to the new challenges that are awaiting you.



Florida TSA
State Leadership Conference
"Imagine the Possibilities"