



CHAPTER PROGRAMMING

DEVELOPING YOUR CHAPTER
THROUGH EVENTS AND
PROGRAMS - 2021





INTRO & EVENT IDEAS

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“What can I do with my local chapter?” local NJHSR leaders frequently ask. The beautiful thing about NJHSR is that your chapter can accomplish nearly anything it wants. We don't require you to participate in any of our programs, and we don't require you to do anything else. This independence is unique to our organization, but it has a drawback for many of our local chapter leaders: they are frequently left with little direction on how to run their clubs. This section aims to provide chapter leaders with suggestions for activities they can perform with their groups. Note that none of these events are required for your local chapter to participate in; they are simply ideas. You might also come up with other suggestions.

1 - Movie Night

A lot of chapters hold movie nights for their members. Movie nights may be a great way to learn about a new topic while also engaging people. You can host a movie night in person, via Zoom, or through a Netflix party. After that, have a conversation about the significance and message of the movie or show.

2 - Letter Writing

Old-fashioned letters are a terrific method to raise awareness. These are individualized comments that can be written on any issue and delivered to members of Congress, local campaigns, or candidates. It could be a good idea to prepare a few of scripts ahead of time (reach out to the local chapter coordinators if you need help with this). Don't forget to have these mailed to the recipients, and keep track of how many your chapter produced. Have fun with it, listen to music, and let your imagination run.



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3 - Phone Banking

As a non-voting citizen of the United States, phone banking is a terrific method to contribute. Phone banking is the practice of dialing local phone numbers to draw attention to a problem. You can persuade residents of your community to vote for Conservative candidates by phone banking. You may need to contact the campaign of the individual for whom you want to phone bank in order to phone bank. Please contact the Development or Programs Directors if you have any questions or concerns about how to proceed. Please feel free to follow any script and contact us if you require assistance in writing one.

4 - Text/Email Banking

Text-banking is a useful approach to attract people to participate in campaigns, especially if they are not comfortable interacting on the phone. Texting and emailing phone numbers and email addresses in your area to get attention for your issue is known as email/text banking. You might need to contact a local campaign to carry out this activity. If you don't want to do that, you can send an email to legislators about a cause that you care about. You can, for example, email politicians and government offices about obtaining justice for a specific individual, issues, or even projects. This is an effective strategy to affect actual change in your community.

5 - Voter Registration Drive

Organize a voter registration drive to encourage residents of your community to register to vote. You should set your shop in either a school or a public location in your neighborhood. Train stations and supermarkets are ideal locations for a pop-up shop! Bring the required resources to allow folks to register online if applicable in your state. Voter registration forms and writing equipment are also required. You should also make signs and posters to let others know what you're up to, where you're up to, and when you're up to it.



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6 - Discussion

Have a discussion with your chapter and community members. To acquire a fresh perspective on ideas, you might want to engage with other comparable local organizations. You should have a basic issue for discussion that you can publicize ahead of time, but don't be afraid to stray from it for a more engaging dialogue. It's as easy as coming up with a few opening questions, setting up a meeting location (or using Zoom), and recruiting enthusiastic members.

7 - Speakers

Politicians or candidates speaking at your event necessitate greater preparation. The following is a list of everything you'll need to perform.

Choose a location. A classroom can be too tiny at times; if you require more space, contact the school administration. Whether you run a community chapter, see if your library or community center can accommodate you.

Confirm your speaker. Make sure to send an email to the individual with whom you want to speak and confirm the specifics. You may have to communicate with a speaker's aide or a member of the staff.

Attendees should be recruited. You'll want to market your event actively, especially if the speaker is well-known. Create and distribute visuals on social media, text all of your members and friends, and have a morning announcement at school (if applicable). An RSVP form can help you predict how many people will show up.

Make a list of questions. If the conversation will be moderated, the moderator should prepare a few questions for the speaker as well as a formal introduction. If you're going to ask the audience questions, you might want to screen them first.

8 - Collaborate

Make contact with sister schools and community organizations! Make an occasion that will benefit both of you. This is a fantastic approach to expand the network of your chapter. Check out the last page of the *Chapter Advocacy Guide* for some examples of organizations.

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9 - Campaign Work

Many clubs decide to get involved in local political campaigns. Campaign activities can be thrilling because individuals feel like they have a real say in their government and politics. There are numerous races to get involved in, ranging from their local County Council candidate to the presidential election. There are numerous methods to participate in a campaign once you've chosen one. Phone banking or text banking, in which members call or text voters to solicit their support, is extremely effective. Postcard writing is another fun technique for your members to get in touch with voters.

Many local campaigns ask you to participate in activities organized by them. Contact them through their website to measure interest and receive support in organizing events as part of the campaign.

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