



ADVISOR TIPS

Spring 2008

At the HOSA National Office, questions come in each day from local chapter advisors who wish to provide outstanding learning opportunities through HOSA. Here are some common questions and answers for HOSA chapter management.

Q: Why is the HOSA uniform so expensive?

A: Awards Unlimited, HOSA's official supplier, offers an excellent quality HOSA uniform at a competitive price. The official HOSA blazer is \$115 and consists of a polyester and wool blend fabric, making it very durable and professional. Matching slacks and skirts are available.

The official blazer looks great and lasts for years. A HOSA member who buys the uniform as a freshman will still look good after wearing the same uniform for four or more years. Many states pass the uniform down from one state officer team to the next, and appreciate how good the blazer looks after years of wear and tear.

HOSA members do have the option of buying a HOSA patch for \$3.10, and then sewing it on to a navy blazer of their choosing.

We know of one chapter advisor who goes to Goodwill and finds navy blue suits at incredible prices. She has them dry-cleaned, sews on the patch, and loans the suits to chapter members.

Q: How can I encourage HOSA members to do an event if I don't know how to do it myself?

A: Community resources and partnerships can have a very positive effect on your school, chapter, and HOSA members, and one of the most effective ways of establishing partnerships is through the HOSA competitive events program.

Begin by recognizing the VALUE of your chapter members working with area healthcare professionals. Rather than say "My students can't do Veterinary Assisting because I don't have the equipment in my classroom", find a veterinarian who wants to work with students, and arrange an opportunity for your student to volunteer for the veterinarian while learning the skills for the event.

Most of the time, your students are interested in events that support their career interests. There is no better way for a student to explore a potential career choice than actually working in that area.

Don't shy away from the things that are "new" in HOSA. Give your chapter members the event guidelines, and tell them to figure out how to learn the things they need to learn to succeed in that event. They may surprise you!

Q: Why are the event resources for competitive events so expensive?

A: HOSA identifies official event resources in order to provide learning consistency for students in all 50 states and Puerto Rico. HOSA members are not required to use any specific text to prepare for an event, but they do know what resource National HOSA used.

Some events lend themselves to a variety of resources. A HOSA member preparing for the Medical Terminology event could choose from dozens of resources and still be successful in the event because the information is very objective.

On the other hand, students taking the Creative Problem Solving test would want to read the official resources to prepare for the Round One test. There are lots of different opinions about leadership and problem solving, and the opinions to be tested in HOSA are the ones in the official resources.

Many of the event resources come from publishers who are willing to send a desk copy of a desk to a teacher upon request.

Another money-saving option is to work with your school's media center. The media center often has money to buy books each year. We know of one school who purchases three sets of the HOSA Medical Reading books each year.

Q: Why don't competitors get their rating sheets back after state competition?

A: In most states and at the national level, HOSA does not return rating sheets after an event. We do not return them at the national level for a number of reasons, including logistics (time



and effort to sort and return over 10,000 rating sheets) and the fact that we don't have any way of explaining why a judge rated a competitor a certain way.

Returning rating sheets creates more frustration than answers. Quite often, different judges score the same event very differently. It's hard for the student to understand why two judges gave high marks but the third judge gave much lower marks. Unless we have all the rating sheets from the section, it is difficult to tell if a judge gave low scores to everyone, or exactly why he/she didn't like a particular performance.

The best way to improve event performance is NOT by seeing the state event rating sheets, but rather is through local practice and evaluation, using the rating sheets. Mock competitions can be set up with teachers, administrators, neighbors, etc. These judges aren't very different from the actual judges at an event, but the practice judges can give constructive feedback. Students who practice often with the rating sheet learn more than they would from state competition rating sheets because rather than a snapshot from state judging, they can start to see trends in the evaluation of their performance.

Q: Can we get sample tests or study materials for competitive events?

A: HOSA does not provide any study or terminology lists for any HOSA competitive events. We do provide a test plan in the event guidelines for all written tests, as well as recommended resources from which the test items are taken. We believe this provides a consistent framework for HOSA members who are preparing for competitive events. At the end of the day, the competitor who knows the most about the content area being tested will win the event.