

COMPETITIVE EVENTS

COMPETITIVE TIPS FOR CHAPTER ADVISORS

HOSA advisors often ask for suggestions when helping to prepare their HOSA members for State and National Competition. **Here are some competition tips that might make a difference!**

Practice – There is no substitute for lots and lots of practice. Study, study, study. Practice, practice, practice. In most events, the knowledge and skills of the event winners is OUTSTANDING.

Start Early - Many national winners are in their second year of doing the event. Those competitors work all year to prepare themselves for State and National competition. Chapter advisors should be helping students select events in the fall and not two weeks before the conference.

Consider the Odds – Some events have fewer competitors than others, so mathematically, the odds are in the favor of those who choose these events.

Follow the Guidelines – That means practicing using the event rating sheets by conducting simulated events. Rather than try to find “experts” in your school to teach you how to do the event, focus on the HOSA guidelines and every single item on the event rating sheet.

Do HOSA in the Classroom - Many instructors use HOSA events in the classroom as a means of supporting classroom instruction. Having students serve as event managers and judges can be a valuable learning experience. Just be sure that what is done is consistent with instructional outcomes.

Work with Events at the State Conference and NLC – Many advisors find that they understand an event to the fullest after serving as an event manager or judge.

Make the Skill of HOSA Members Your Responsibility – BE SURE that before you take any student to competition that he/she has the skills to perform competently. This is particularly true with Category II events. To ask a student to compete in an

event where they clearly have not mastered the skills is extremely unfair to the student.

Make the Event Materials of HOSA Members Your Responsibility – Local advisors know what a good resume, cover letter, portfolio or notebook looks like. If you were grading the event materials in class and wouldn't award above a D, why would you allow the student to take the same event materials to a state or national conference?

Understand the Big Picture – The HOSA competitive events program is not about getting as many warm bodies to competition as possible. The HOSA competitive events program is about excellence in learning. Raise the bar for your students. Help them understand the big picture. Help them compete at a level where, win or lose, they will feel as though they have accomplished something.

Play Fair – Set an ethical example for your students by assuring that they are the ones competing (not you) and that you follow all the rules without looking for an edge, advantage, or special treatment. Be more concerned about the student than you are the medal, and be sure to recognize all students who work hard and do their best – not just the eventual winners.

