

*You are sitting at the HOSA National Awards Program, waiting for your category. You are nervous, you start to shake, and then they call your event. All of a sudden you hear someone announce your name and you jump up and scream - you've just won your event!*

# THE IMPORTANCE

Many in National HOSA know just what this experience feels like; the excitement of winning, being in front of your friends and being rewarded for your HARD WORK. For some, all they see is the outside of HOSA. They see someone winning that award or someone going on those trips. They don't see all of the hard work that the winner put into being a member of HOSA.

The conferences that local chapters attend provide opportunities for chapter members. Most states have fall leadership conferences designed to help the students learn the skills needed to be effective local leaders. In the spring, states hold conferences for leadership development and HOSA competitive events. The winners of state conferences are eligible to attend the National Leadership Conference. This is a very exciting way for students to compete at high levels for a national title.

One of HOSA's best resources is the local chapter. Local chapters can help HOSA members go the 'extra mile'. Through local chapters, students get the unique experiences that only HOSA has to offer. Local chapters are great tools that can be used to learn about HOSA, develop leadership skills, become an active member, and expand personal horizons.

Involvement at the local level isn't just important for the student members, but for the advisors and HOE educators as well. Advisors get the chance to be a part of a student's life. Advisors have resources like HOSA's online resources and web site where they can keep in touch with National HOSA.

HOSA members working in local chapters have great opportunities to learn about health care and leadership. Many local chapters have community service projects with health care institutions like nursing homes and hospitals. These activities help students decide if the medical field is really something that they would like to go into.

Being involved in local chapters helps HOSA members make friends. Involvement in local chapters lets students mix and meet some of the other 67,468 members in the nearly 2,100 chapters of HOSA. Some HOSA members forge friendships that last lifetimes. Some get a chance just to be part of something and have fun doing something they love with people that share a common interest.

At the local level, HOSA members get the opportunity to work on HOSA projects for competition. HOSA offers many competitive events built to challenge students and to offer skill training in specialized fields. Some chapters choose to do group events such as Parliamentary Procedure or CPR/First Aid. After careful preparation and practice, HOSA members are able to compete at the Regional, State, and possibly even National levels. These conferences are fun ways to work with HOSA while developing useful skills for the future.

It's extremely difficult to be able to pinpoint everything that involvement in local chapters can offer. There are rewards for every level of HOSA membership. Being involved can create lifelong memories. So, HOSA challenges every member to "Get Involved"! Through your involvement and dedication you could be an example for others and help in the continuing growth of HOSA.

*By Nathan Rudder, National Secondary Board Representative*

*HOSA challenges every member to  
GET INVOLVED!*

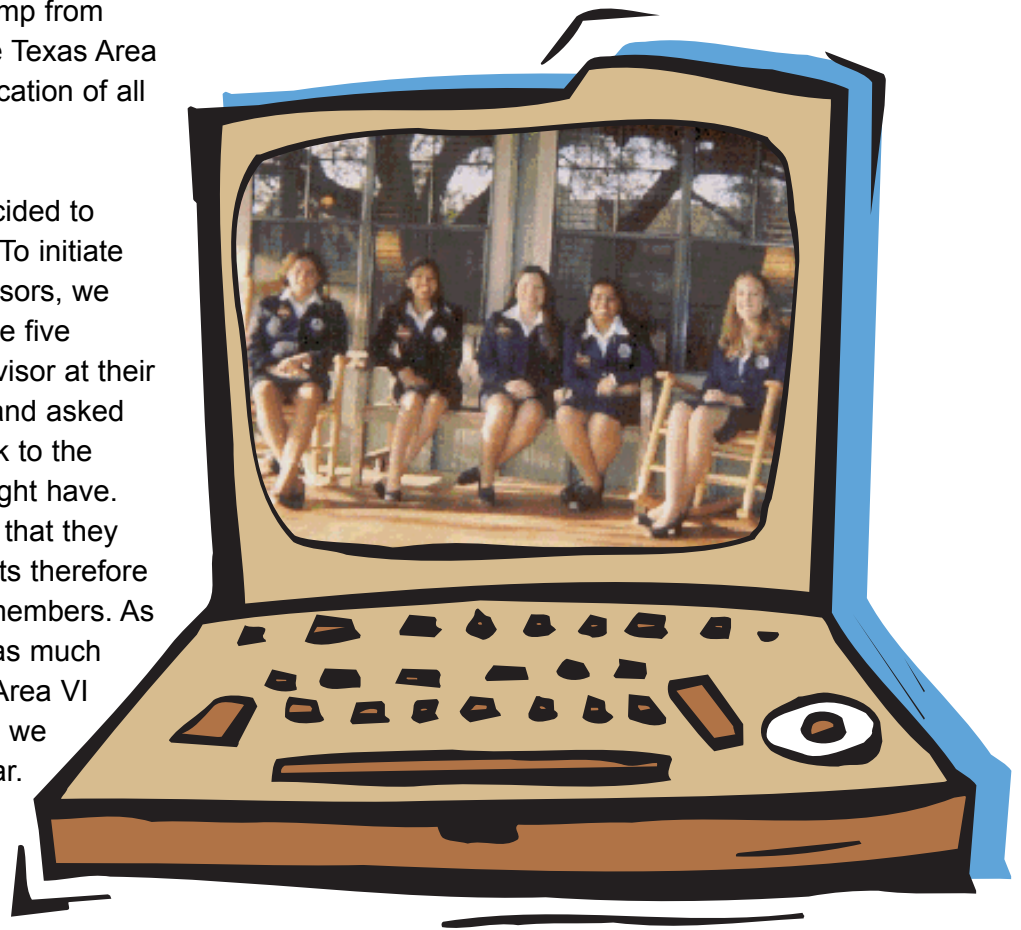


Chapter News

# Texas Officers Use Technology

At the Texas Officers Leadership Camp from August 2-4, 2002 a major goal of the Texas Area VI officers was to increase communication of all the 97 chapters in Area VI.

The five officers, pictured above, decided to open an e-mail account with Yahoo. To initiate communication with the Area VI advisors, we divided the schools evenly among the five officers. We have e-mailed every advisor at their respective school from the account and asked that they respond and send feedback to the officers of any concerns that they might have. We have also informed the teachers that they may give the account to their students therefore we will also get the opinions of the members. As the year proceeds we hope to hear as much feedback and suggestions from the Area VI advisors as well as the members, as we have received quite a response so far. With hard work and dedication Area VI's communication will increase, and our goal shall be achieved.



## ALABAMA HOSA CHAPTER

### NATIONAL HOSA WEEK



Bacon County High School HOSA members celebrate National HOSA week by doing free blood pressure checks during the school lunch breaks. A large banner was placed in the main hallway to inform the student body of this special week. The hall bulletin board noted the same message. Bacon County High School student body recognized the week of November 3-8 as a special week.



# DISASTER

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## ASSISTANCE TEAM

*Beulah High School  
Valley, Alabama*



What a surprise to find a Disaster Assistance Team (DAT) in a community with a population of less than 3000 people. If you visit the little community of Beulah, Alabama, a DAT team is just what you will find. Beulah High School has only had a Healthcare Science Program for one full school year, and already the healthcare science students are making a difference. Working together with the local Lee County Chapter of the American Red Cross, the students have developed a Disaster Assistance Team within the high school to assist any surrounding areas in the event of a disaster.

Under the direction of Dr. Roderick Powers, the students and their teacher completed the course work necessary to certify them as a Disaster Service Human Resource. Dr. Powers organized the instruction of five of the seven courses necessary for certification, and the remaining two classes were taught by the student's regular healthcare teacher, Debra Wiggins, RN.

The Disaster Assistance Team centers around the high school's new gymnasium facility which has been designated as an official Red Cross Disaster Shelter. The students have developed a telephone tree that will be used in activating the team. A call is initially placed by the Red Cross to Debra Wiggins, the teacher, who then activates the phone tree by calling the team's captains. The students then meet at the designated shelter sight and are assigned various tasks.

The DAT team had its first experience in a Weapons of Mass Destruction exercise in May 2002. The drill was organized by the Lee County Emergency Management Agency to test the roles of emergency responders in the Lee County area. Beulah High School's DAT team simulated the opening of a shelter at a local community college. The students had the opportunity to work with trained, experienced professionals from many different agencies including area hospitals and fire and police departments. The drill was a great learning experience for all the agencies involved.

It is a rare gift for such a small community to have the ability to work side by side with the volunteer efforts of an organization like the American Red Cross. This ongoing volunteer project combined with the students' commitment to delivering quality service to those needing this service will be a valuable asset to Beulah Community for years to come.

