

Are You an Outstanding HOSA Chapter?

HOSA's Outstanding HOSA Chapter event is designed to recognize those chapters who go above and beyond in providing opportunities for chapter members and service to the community. At the HOSA National Leadership Conference (NLC) in 2008, 54 chapters were rewarded for their outstanding achievements.

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The Outstanding HOSA Chapter event serves as a template for chapter achievement. It encourages participation in state and national leadership conferences, encourages community service, promotes participation in professional meetings, and asks chapters to share their knowledge and skills with others.

Why should a chapter participate in this event?

There are many good reasons for chapter participation in the Outstanding HOSA Chapter event. Chapter members can use the rating sheet to create an outline for chapter activities. Careful planning helps chapters focus their efforts and provides a well-balanced program of work for the year.

The Outstanding HOSA Chapter event should be a team effort. Because the reward is for the actions of the

chapter, it makes sense to have a team of chapter members collect evidence of chapter activities, and put the scrapbook together.

Chapters who participate in this event every year find that it leaves a legacy for future HOSA members. The scrapbook remains on display in the health science classroom, and serves as a permanent reminder of the achievements of HOSA members. The scrapbook is a source of pride for alumni members when they come back to the HOSA chapter to tell their stories to current members and promote career opportunities in health care.

How do chapters succeed in the Outstanding HOSA Chapter event?

There are two keys to success in the Outstanding HOSA Chapter event. One is to develop a program of work that addresses all of the requirements outlined in the event rating sheet. The other is to follow the guidelines for the composition of the scrapbook.

The Outstanding HOSA Chapter guidelines clearly outline requirements for the scrapbook so that there is judging consistency among judges at the state and national levels. Many of the requirements in the guidelines are designed to make sure that judges do not miss anything in the scrapbook that should be awarded points.

THE BIGGEST MISTAKE that HOSA chapters make in this event is failure to follow the guidelines. For example, one of the requirements is that the pages are numbered. Chapters who fail to number the pages are not following the guidelines. Another mistake is failure to include a description of pictures. This is a clear and specific requirement in the event guidelines.

What can chapters do to get it right?

Practice judging. Ask a parent, guidance counselor, school staff member, or fellow HOSA chapter member to read the event guidelines and use the rating sheet to score the scrapbook. If you do this a few times, you will find any concerns that judges might have, and improve the likelihood that your efforts will be counted and your chapter will be recognized as one of HOSA's Outstanding HOSA Chapters.

