

YOUR ticket to



It's fall 2003. As an active member of your HOSA chapter, you are excited about the good things your HOSA chapter is planning for your school and community this year. You are also aware that HOSA has much to offer regarding your personal leadership development. You know that HOSA provides many opportunities, and at the end of the road is a successful health career.

You also know one more thing: somewhere between "opportunity" and "success" lies... Orlando.

That's right. Orlando, Florida is the site of the 2004 HOSA National Leadership Conference, and you can be a part of all the fun, excitement and opportunity that a national conference offers.

Being a delegate to the 2004 National Leadership Conference means you will have an opportunity to network with the health care community, attend educational workshops, and meet HOSA members from across the nation. Participation in a national conference demonstrates to colleges and employers that you are willing to go the extra mile toward becoming a successful professional. If you happen to be a national competitive event participant or winner, your achievement is yet another example of your leadership ability.

WHERE DO YOU BEGIN?

Your first stop is your chapter advisor. Let your advisor know of your goals and plan for success. Your advisor needs to plan with you to ensure that rules are followed and opportunities are available for you to be a National Leadership Conference delegate in June.

Next, decide where to focus your achievements. If competition does not appeal to you, you may wish to consider looking at the Category V events in the HOSA Handbook, Section B. National Recognition Opportunities are available through events such as:

- National Recognition Program
- Barbara James Service Award
- National Service Project

In these events, HOSA members who complete the standards are eligible for national recognition. For some HOSA members, meeting the standards for a recognition event is their ticket to the National Leadership Conference.

If you do like competition and want to win a medal at state-level competition, we suggest you look carefully at the Category II events.

WHY CATEGORY II?

Category II skill events are not as subject to the judge's opinions as some of the leadership events (like Prepared Speaking), and we believe the competitor can increase his or her odds of winning by participating in a skill event.

There is a catch, though.

In order to succeed in a skill event, you need to be highly skilled.

Let's see if we can explain what it means to be "highly skilled." In most Category II events, it means that the competitor can perform all the skills in the event – perfectly. It's that simple.

When we look at the skill scores of gold medalists at the national level we find they have one thing in common. They

earned all (or nearly all) the points possible in the skill procedures for the event.

What does that mean for you? That means that if you want to be a state winner in a skill event, you must be able to perform all the skills in the event and earn the total points possible. The good news is that your success will not depend on luck – it will depend on PRACTICE!

But what about the test? Experience tells us that competitors who know the skills inside and out also have the knowledge needed to score well on the written test. You will still want to review the test plan and study appropriately.

Of course, you should also be sure to pick a skill event that has career potential for you. You will not have the passion for learning the skills in an event if you are not interested in the career.

YOU CAN SUCCEED IN OTHER EVENTS

The key to success in the HOSA competitive events program is LEARNING. The more you practice, the more you learn. With very few exceptions, the HOSA members who climb the podium are the ones who put forth the greatest effort.

No matter what state you call home, being a delegate to the HOSA National Leadership Conference provides an exciting and rewarding experience.

