



Parent/Student Information Form

2021-2022

Parents, I'd like to take a moment to thank you for allowing your student to attend their first TSA meeting of the 2021-2022 school year. This program is an excellent opportunity for your student to explore several different career paths, nurture lasting friendships, and interact with a vast network of students across the state of Florida and the United States. The activities of this organization reinforce classroom learning with STEAM based competitions at the Regional, State, and National levels. **100% of students who participate in TSA graduate from high school, and 75% are college-bound.**

The purpose of this document is to inform the parents and students of their obligations to the organization once they've committed to membership, and of the organization's obligations to its members. SMS TSA has grown to be one of the most successful academic and extra-curricular programs at both SMS and in Sarasota County, and it is our continuing goal to maintain a level of excellence in technology education for which this school and this organization is known.

Commitment

I can't stress enough the level of commitment that goes into this program from all of those involved. **SMS TSA meetings are held every Tuesday/Thursday at 8:30am in rm. 408.** This time is essential to allow students to work towards their projects at a time when I am available to fill my role for them as their Chapter Advisor. It also allows students who are working together on group projects to meet and communicate regularly. Coupled with overnight trips to Leadership Conference, State and National TSA Conference, plus time spent fundraising, your student could be committing to **up to 400 hours of extracurricular activities.**

This will undoubtedly translate into extra hours for you as well, as we will need multiple chaperones and volunteers to make this all possible. Students often need to collaborate on projects outside of school hours, and it is likely you will need to make accommodations for them. There are several parent meetings throughout the year that will be arranged via email. **Students are required to compete in a minimum of 3 competitive events.**

New for this year, VEX Robotics Teams will be treated as a separate entity from TSA. While still under my supervision while working at school, **each VEX team will be required to have one adult coach/sponsor.** VEX teams will not be required to participate in TSA Events, and may only be required to attend TSA Conferences on dates/times that coincide with their competitive schedule. This a new process for me as well, but I felt it was a necessary change. As the organization grows, it is becoming more and more challenging to balance VEX and TSA. Students who have done VEX before know it has a way of dominating their schedule.

SAVE THE DATE

"Learning to lead in a technical world"

FL TSA Leadership Conference

October 20 – 23, 2021

Orlando, FL

Chapter officers receive training on how to run an effective chapter from State officers and TSA Alumni.

FL TSA West Coast Regionals

November 13, 2021

Bradenton, FL

Students' first chance to have their projects evaluated in a conference environment.

FL TSA State Conference

February 23-26, 2022

Orlando, FL

The main event. Students compete in their events against students from across the state in a 4-day conference of over 2000 students.

STEM Smart Summit

Date TBD, 2022

Sarasota, FL

EdFoundation hosts an annual showcase event for student success in STEM.





Cost

Sarasota County Schools will pay for Chapter and Student Registration cost for State and National conferences (over \$150 value) as well as bus transportation to the State Conference in Orlando. However, the district will not pay for hotel rooms and other expenses, making fundraising drives a necessity. **A consumables fee of \$50 is required to cover the cost of student projects and materials purchases. It is strongly suggested that your student raise this money on their own accord. This fee is due by February 1st of the current school year. Please contact the Advisor if in need of financial assistance.**

National Conference

In the past, we've looked at National Conference as a bit of a wild card. We weren't always sure that we'd have students who would earn their spots, as several events require 1st, 2nd, or 3rd place awards in their respective State Conference competitive event. We've decided not to leave that up to chance any more. Our students have consistently shown us that they have what it takes to compete at the national level, and because of this we will be moving forward with an annual commitment to attend TSA National Conference and Competition. **The National Conference Team will consist of (up to) 16 students hand selected by the Advisor and Officer Team. Students may guarantee their seat at National Conference by qualifying in one of several events with a 1st, 2nd, or 3rd place prize. All students who are invited to attend the National Conference should be prepared for additional travel costs and fundraising activities.**

Additional Information

Please review the following websites with your students as they may contain important TSA updates and information regarding conference events, themes, updates, dress codes, and competitive events information that could prove valuable to you and your student.

National TSA – www.tsaweb.org

Florida TSA – www.floridatsa.org

SMS TSA – www.smstsachapter.weebly.com

Sign Up

In an effort to keep pace with an evolving world and technological landscape, SMSTSA will require an online sign-up form moving forward. We believe this will reduce the hours spent by the student officers to keep track of our growing membership.

To sign up, please go to:

<https://smstsachapter.weebly.com/sign-up.html>

and complete the Sign-Up Form.

Using a Smart Phone?

1. Open the camera app on your smart phone.
2. Hold the camera over the image below.
3. Follow the link!

