

Involve students!

Students of all ages are eligible to join any unit, regardless of whether or not it is a PTA or a PTSA. There are more than 6 million public school students in California alone. If each of them become a member of PTA; our nationwide membership would more than double.

PTAs should invite students to lend their voice. Students can chair committees and provide valuable manpower for PTA activities. What students get in return is leadership training, community service hours for graduation and the knowledge that they can make a difference at their school.

Value of student members:

- ◀ To provide a new perspective on PTA activities and programs
- ◀ To provide information on student interests and problems
- ◀ To give students the opportunity to participate in the planning and executing of PTA/PTSA programs
- ◀ To provide an avenue for community service
- ◀ To give students and adults a better understanding of each other
- ◀ To teach students useful skills such as leadership and public speaking
- ◀ To introduce students to the legislative process through PTA's involvement in legislative activities

Recruitment and retention of students

Some helpful hints about recruiting student members:

- ◀ Ask for help. Most students are willing to help if asked.
- ◀ Ask students what they need to make positive changes in their education and collaborate with students to meet those needs.
- ◀ Ask the nominating committees to consider students.
- ◀ If possible, start with a core of students who are already involved in PTA. Use them as your recruitment/public relations team.
- ◀ Emphasize that PTA can be fun, using logos, T-shirts, music and drama to spark interest.
- ◀ Keep people who make referrals, such as counselors, administrators, and teachers, informed of PTA activities for students.
- ◀ Show how PTA programs relate to student interests such as art, music, writing, and conservation.
- ◀ Publicize PTA achievements and the advantages of student participation.

