

## Create a student recognition program

### Students Deserve To Be Recognized

Students deserve to be recognized and rewarded for their contributions to PTA/PTSA. A system of recognition and awards creates a climate of respect and value for PTA involvement and motivates students to continue their hard work and dedication to PTA. For this to be effective, fair criteria must be developed. For example, students should be rewarded for leadership, vision and dedication using the same criteria for all volunteers.

### Students Can Be Recognized and Rewarded in Many Ways

- Select student members of the week, month, or year and promote their accomplishments.
- Develop incentives, such as student buttons, special jackets or T-shirts.
- Invite active student members to speak to students in other schools such as feeder schools, and to community groups about their experiences.
- Hold an annual ceremony or dinner to recognize PTA and its student members.
- Write letters of recommendation to college admissions offices or prospective employers based on a student's PTA involvement.
- Use communications — school bulletin boards, school yearbook photos, radio, TV, websites, newspapers and magazines — to feature stories on student successes in helping solve school and community problems.
- Recognize outstanding student members with PTA's Honorary Service Awards.
- Use active student members as expert advisors for new PTA/PTSA projects.
- Implement a "student support system" to allow veteran student and adult members to provide new student members with:
  - Motivation and encouragement to overcome challenges and obstacles encountered in PTA activities;
  - Direction and foundation for student growth and development;
  - Techniques in balancing school work, PTSA and extracurricular activities; and
  - Techniques for handling the stress, emotion and frustration that can accompany working with community organizations, school boards, etc.

*Share innovative strategies for student involvement by applying for the PTA Spotlight Award.*

