



## Overcoming Chapter Challenges & Obstacles

### **Time Management:**

*How can your group keep or move the mission of your group to the top of all members' "to do list"?*

Requires Personal Responsibility

Conflicting with other groups/organization

- Pay people or compromise somehow
- Develop a project that can be combined with other groups
- Plan a family night

Provide incentives

Make it fun

Have food

Add personal touches

Eliminate things that are not important

Prioritize

Situations need to show results

Focus on new things

### **Advertising Activities**

Partner with Community Mental Health, Health Department and resources to give support to schools.

Partner with churches for support.

Through involvement of community events (parade, drives, etc.)

Handouts, ads and word of mouth.

Have combined/joint meetings.

Have activities that talk about "real issues".

Work with local liquor stores and make sure they are asking for identification.

Ask other organizations to partner with you.

### **What to have at Meetings:**

*What are the three main things to have at every chapter meeting/gathering?*

Agenda

Activities

Message

Motivation

Food

Personal Connections

Awards/Recognition



**What is your chapter's biggest reason for lack of meeting attendance?**

- Boring
- No personal connection between members
- Involved in too many activities
- Doesn't feel sense of belonging
- Lack of passion
- Lack of enthusiasm
- Embarrassed that others may think they are "not cool"
- Lack of communication
- Transportation issues
- Lack of financial support
- Lack of parental support
- Scheduling conflicts
- Misunderstanding of chapter mission/vision/goals

**When you are in a group/team/club there is always a question of WIFM (What's In It For Me?)**

- Community Service
- College Application or College Credit
- Job references/resources
- Friends
- Opportunities
- Reputation
- Life Skills
- People Skills
- Diversity
- Field Trips
- T-shirts
- Resume building
- Excitement
- Cool activities
- Competitions
- Giveaways



### **Membership Recruitment:**

*What attracts members?*

*What can chapters do to engage members in the program?*

Fulfillment of helping people

Recognition

College recognition

Authority Respect

Parties

Food

Fun

Advisor and administration support

Skill development such as public speaking

New friendships

Opportunities away from school

Leadership Skills

Tell people they are valuable and worthy

Friendliness attracts people

Get people involved by any means necessary (be creative)

Make sure members feel accepted

Make the meetings enjoyable and productive

Send members gifts for their achievements

Celebrate birthdays

### **Messages**

Impacting the school and community

Spreading the word

Training others

Sharing information

Showing dedication can empower others

Make members feel they are important

Reach out to younger students

Present a positive and organized message

We believe we can accomplish anything

Use research in your message

Chapter needs to have the courage to stand up for what they believe

Chapter needs to show everyone that they can make a difference



**Limited/Lack of Resources:**

*How can you carry on your groups mission and the ideals/values of “Students Leading Students” with this hurdle?*

Fundraisers

Sponsors/Business Partnerships

Grants

- Safe and Drug Free Schools Money
- Citizens Insurance Grants for SLS Chapters
- Rotary Club
- Community Foundations
- Free Resources

Battle of the Bands

- Partner with other schools
- Networking
- Fundraising
- Social Activities

United Way

Beer and Wine Wholesalers

Prevention Network Grants

Persistence

**Commitment:**

*What gives students commitment to the program?*

*How do members know that what they are doing makes a difference?*

Witnessing the change

Making a difference in their peers lives

Morals and Values

Coming to meetings and participating

Upholding the mission and values of the chapter and not participating in “destructive behaviors”

Learning life lessons

Sense of belonging and involvement

Students build on commitment upon actual experiences

Dedication to helping students makes wiser decisions

Make the best out of what you have

Keep track of what you have done



**Lack of Communication between members:**

***How can your chapter overcome lack of communication between members?***

***Which is the best communication method among your group members?***

Use technology such as text messaging to give dates and times reminders

Designate area for bulletins, announcements, etc.

Use more than one method of communication

- Phone calls
- Flyers/announcements
- Emails
- Personal contacts

Pick a day for meetings and stick with it (ex. Every Tuesday at 3:00pm in room 203)

Follow through with communication (if one method does not reach everyone, use a different method until all members have been reached)

MySpace or FaceBook

Internet

Use technology to get your chapter's message across to others

Write letters to each other

**Cyber Displaying:**

***How can your chapter handle those "members" who are seen participating in activities that are against/or violate your chapters mission/goals?***

***What is your group's responsibility to this issue?***

Bring to advisors attention

Remind members that they need to uphold their chapter's good reputation and values

Assist your fellow members in their time of need

Give those who break this rule a warning and tell them the consequences

People do it without thinking about the consequences (have open discussion about this issue each meeting)

Have a chapter contract and all members have to sign it

Do not use incidents as a cause for shame but use it as an opportunity to address issues

Have an intervention and point system

Keeping members involved helps them keep up positive actions and they take their job as a role model seriously

Adults need to also being role models, respectful and responsible



### **Creativity:**

*How can we get members to “think outside the box” and come up with new ideas/ways to reach their peers?*

*Why is it that chapters do the same old thing?*

Group Brainstorming

Bounce ideas off one another

- Add to others ideas
- Speakers
- Presentations

Make sure members are in “their comfort zone”

Gather ideas of peers by sending around a survey

Chapters continue to do same projects because they were successful and already planned

Partner with other groups on teen issues

Have contests and prizes for most creative project/idea

Fundraise for money so chapter has the financial support to do new ideas

Come up with a “jingle”

Use the talent in the group

Take risks and encourage others to “step through the door”

Some activities are proven to work and be effective so they are repeated

Group tends to do behind the scenes prevention because it is not marketed

Make the project about “personal choices”

Have groups make a project proposal and have chapter vote on it

Build a very small box and watch it grow

### **Funding:**

*How can your chapter show it’s messages and activities are just as important as the others in order to continue funding?*

The majority of the schools do not receive any funding

Use resources that are available in the community

The more resources you have the better the outcome

Providing statistics helps get funding

Prove to administration that your chapter’s messages is as important as school sports

Show the facts about alcohol and other drugs

Safe and Drug Free School money can be used if the “risk survey” proves it is needed

Outcomes will show cause for funding



### **Conflicts:**

***How does your chapter handle conflict amongst your group?***

***How does your chapter handle lack of follow through among members?***

Not having specific people assigned to “officers” helps keep conflict down.

- No one person has the “power”

Discuss the conflict and try to solve it

Contact through email/phone/announcements

Reward prominent members

If there is conflict, don’t reward with special things like conference

Advisor talk to members in private

Resolve them as a group in a non-threaten way

Some students have different personal experiences of ATOD issues and become frustrated with others

Have members remind each other on importance of follow through

### **Administration Support:**

***How can your chapter maintain or continue administration support?***

Compromise: come to an understanding of what SLS stands for and what the Administration expectations will be

Show data/stats

Have students do presentations to the Administration and in the community

Need to consistently approach Administration for support

Keep a clean image so the Administration knows you believe in your message

Find ways to get the Administration involved

Present at school board meetings

Always get permission for everything

Always gives thanks for their support

### **When Youth Stand Together They Have ONE Voice:**

***How can your chapter develop a broader perspective on what youth can achieve?***

Have a mini-conference to show they are not alone

Get down on their level

Develop programs to encourage drug-free at a young age

Try not to focus on the negatives, but on the positives

Have a focus group for topics



### **Overcoming Diversity**

A small town has problems understanding diversity.

- Develop a group that focuses on diverse issues.

Sexual orientations.

- Begin a Gay/Straight Alliance

Student's prejudices

- Make prejudice a "real topic" in your chapter.

Religion and Racial barriers

- Have your chapter understand different races, cultures, and religions.

Diversity is necessary

Reach out to individuals and talk to them personally about your organization

Break down the stereotypes by finding a common ground among groups

### **How can you spread the word about "Students Leading Students"?**

Advertising

Fundraising

T-shirts

Word of mouth

Websites

Banners

Posters

MySpace or FaceBook

Make transition easy and visible

Presentations

SLS Pep Rally

PSA's

Slogans

Morning announcements

Press Release

In your face method

Motivational speakers

Radio

Commercials

Newsletter article

Make a catchy rap, song, slogan about the new name



**Using the new name “Students Leading Students” how can you bring awareness or re-energize your chapter?**

It is more upbeat  
Broadens horizons within a positive aspect  
People are interested in something new/different  
Name is more inclusive  
More organizations/clubs/groups will want to partner because of the positive and broad aspect of the name  
The name stands for “real teens” and “real issues”  
New name talks about diversity and different issues

Thank you very much!

Special recognition to the students and advisors who attended the 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual SLS State Conference on November 8-10, 2008 and participated in the “General Session” to action plan the dissemination of the SLS high school program name, “Students Leading Students.”

*Alba HS, Athens HS, Bentley HS, Buena Vista HS, Cousino HS, Chelsea HS, Croswell-Lexington HS, Farmington HS, Fowlerville HS, Garber HS, Harrison HS, Hemlock HS, Houghton Lake HS, Manchester HS, Memphis HS, Vandercook Lake HS, Lakeshore HS, Saline HS, Whittemore Prescott HS.*