



2016-2017 STUDENT CHAPTER FORMATION GUIDELINES

High School

Those teaching or studying at an educational institution may consider organizing a USITT Student Chapter. Before starting a chapter at a high school, it is important for the faculty or staff member who plans to sponsor it and the students who will be involved to give serious consideration to the proposed chapter's future.

Prospective student chapter members need to determine what value the chapter will provide for members. Activities should assist in expanding members' experience and education. Ideas include workshops led by visiting professionals, inter-chapter sharing, and group trips to both local and national conferences. The networking and social activities that accompany such events provide further benefits.

How to start a Student Chapter (High School)

- ◆ Identify a faculty/staff member who is willing to serve as sponsor and provide the chapter with active leadership and guidance. **This person must be a USITT member.** Many chapters have co-sponsors (if so, both must be USITT members).
- ◆ Identify prospective members. There should be enough interested students to sustain the chapter beyond any one academic year. Students do not need to be USITT members.
- ◆ Hold elections to determine chapter officers or appoint interim officers. Required officer positions are: Chair, Vice-Chair, Treasurer, and Secretary. The latter two offices can be combined into a Secretary-Treasurer position.
- ◆ Write By-laws for the chapter. Sample by-laws are available on-line
- ◆ Plan activities for the year – a mix of service to the department/profession, fund raisers to support attendance at the Annual Conference and social events works well for many chapters. (Don't forget to practice for Tech Olympics!)
- ◆ Download and complete the Student Chapter application
- ◆ Send your completed application and By-laws to the USITT Office and the VP-MS (contact information provided in the application).
- ◆ If all requirements are met, a Charter certificate will be mailed to the chapter sponsor. Charters run for one year – October to October.
- ◆ Follow through on your plans and have fun!
- ◆ In spring, elect next year's officers and send President's contact information to the VP-MS.
- ◆ In fall, plan a new year of activities and submit a Charter Renewal form.

For more information about the benefits of establishing a student chapter, sample By-laws, or a Charter Application, contact Andi Lyons, Vice-President for Members, Sections & Chapters at andi@albany.edu Interested individuals may also attend the Student Roundtable meeting at the Annual Conference & Stage Expo to obtain information. Individuals who wish to verify membership may contact the USITT office at 800-938-7488 or info@usitt.org