

# Student Organizations

## Introduction

In this activity, you will learn and explore the role and function of student organizations in an academic environment.

## Directions

Read the information below and then apply what you learn to answer the below questions. Additional research may be required.

## What Is a Student Organization?

A **student organization** is a group or association of students, usually in a high school or college, that is formed around any number of extracurricular activities:

- Student government
- Sports teams
- Social clubs
- Honor societies
- Multicultural alliances
- Technology education
- Artists and performers
- Spirituality
- Politics
- Community service
- Professional career development

A student organization is usually required to follow a set of rules and regulations that apply equally to all student organizations at a particular school.

## Why Should I Get Involved?

Even if you are uncertain of your goals, being an active part of a student organization opens a variety of experiences to you. These organizations serve various purposes and provide a unique opportunity to connect with other students who share the same interests or academic needs.

Some groups offer a social outlet; others offer chances to learn about or access a particular field of interest that was otherwise unavailable. Many student clubs are part of a national network of students and professionals, which provides the chance to connect to a wider variety of students and opportunities.

While most schools do not require you to belong to a student organization or club while in high school, educators and counselors tend to argue that these associations make for a more well-rounded and enriching learning experience.

## Goals, Objectives, and Opportunities

Types of Student Organizations	Goals, Objectives, and Opportunities
<b>Technology Education</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Learn and develop technology skills.</li> <li>• Understand how issues such as ethics, safety, and access to technology affect the community as a whole.</li> <li>• Strive to serve the technology needs of the community, such as Internet access for all social and economic groups.</li> <li>• Advance your academic or professional career in the world of technology.</li> </ul>
<b>Student Government</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gain leadership qualities and skills that make you more marketable to employers and universities.</li> <li>• Learn about different college majors and careers in politics and government.</li> <li>• Share ideas and collaborate with others.</li> <li>• Demonstrate the ability to approach challenges, new ideas, and tasks from someone else's point of view.</li> <li>• Opportunity to join a local chapter of the Business Professionals of America and Future Business Leaders of America.</li> </ul>
<b>Professional Career Development</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop professional planning skills.</li> <li>• Get work experience and learn to collaborate.</li> <li>• Understand how different career paths affect the community and how to encourage community service.</li> <li>• Interact with professionals in order to learn first-hand about their different industries.</li> <li>• Obtain a realistic view of certain jobs and occupations; recognize pros and cons about career decisions.</li> <li>• Learn which classes to take for a desired career.</li> </ul>
<b>Artistic/Performance Clubs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explore your creative interests.</li> <li>• Allocate time looking into your strengths, dislikes, and abilities in various artistic areas.</li> <li>• Take risks, build confidence, and grow creatively.</li> <li>• Learn valuable skills speaking, performing, and entertaining in front of large audiences.</li> </ul>
<b>Community Service</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Learn the importance of civic responsibility and involvement.</li> <li>• Explore internships and volunteer opportunities.</li> <li>• Make a difference in your life and the lives of those around you.</li> </ul>
<b>Political Organizations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Build relationships with instructors, advisors, students, and other members of the community who share similar backgrounds/world views.</li> <li>• Consider differing points of view, diversify your knowledge of culture and politics.</li> <li>• Learn debate skills and how to defend an opinion.</li> <li>• Network with national and international political organizations, such as Peace Corps or UNICEF.</li> </ul>

## Join or Start a Student Organization

Take a close look at the organizations offered at your school or within your community. Are there any organizations that interest you?

Usually posters or flyers for a variety of clubs and groups can be found on your school's Message Board or Web site. Try to locate more information about the organizations that meet your needs. Then think about how these organizations can help you to develop and gain valuable skills that you can use at both school and work.

If you cannot find an organization that meets your needs, consider organizing a new group with other students who share the same interests. Ask your student counselor or a trusted teacher about the school's policy for creating any groups.

You can also use the Internet to find more information on common student organizations around the world. You might be surprised at the large number of options and opportunities that are available!

## Skillbuilder

1. Research organizations offered at your school. In a separate document, list three organizations that best fit your interests, personality, and academic or career goals. For each organization you list, include one or two sentences that explain why you might join that group—such as how each student organization can help you to develop and gain valuable skills
2. In the same document you started in question #1 above, key a paragraph in which you explain how you think participation in professional or technology-related student organizations can promote involvement in career planning.

## Classroom Activity

Imagine you have just joined a student organization at your school that revolves around community service. Your teacher-advisor has selected you to spearhead a Campus Safety Committee!

1. As a committee-head, you will need to help purchase a computer with money raised from a recent fundraiser. Use print resources or the Internet to research the following terms commonly found in computer advertisements. Then, in a separate document, key a brief definition for each term in your own words.

**processor, RAM, laptop, desktop, hard drive, monitor, CD-ROM, warranty, service plan**

2. As head of the Safety Committee, your first task is to oversee the proper setup of your club's new computer station. Use print or online research to:

- Identify proper ergonomic techniques for a computer station.
- Identify good work attitudes that affect safety on the job.
- Identify major causes of work-related accidents in offices.
- Describe the threat of viruses to a computer network, methods of avoiding attacks, and options in dealing with a virus attack.
- Identify potential abuse and unethical uses of computers and networks.

Then, in a separate document that you should title *Computer Station Safety*, key a short paragraph for each of the issues listed above.

3. Now that the computer station has been properly set up, your Safety Committee needs to develop an emergency plan for the club. Use the Internet or print resources to research school emergency plans. You will need to consider natural disasters (such as a fire, earthquake, or tornado), as well as illnesses and accidents.

In a separate document, key a short paragraph that explains the proper procedure or reaction for your club to take in the case of various emergencies. You may wish to list emergency telephone numbers as well, such as 911 or your local Poison Control.