



TSA Achievement Program, Pathways to Excellence

The TSA Achievement Program, Pathways to Excellence promotes service leadership, STEM immersion, and personal/professional development in middle school and high school members through their involvement in STEM-based activities. Specifically, the program aims to:

- engage members at the local, state, and national levels
- facilitate opportunities for members to use and expand their knowledge and skills of technology and engineering education
- recognize the efforts of members to attain bronze, silver, and gold level awards

ENROLLMENT AND LEVELS

All affiliated members of TSA have access to/are enrolled in the TSA Achievement Program. The award program consists of three levels of achievement: Bronze, Silver, and Gold. TSA chapter members engage in activities – in the categories of service leadership, STEM immersion, and personal/professional development – to earn, in sequence, bronze, silver, and gold level awards.

A student who has achieved a gold level award in a given year may choose to participate in the program again in another year(s), starting with the bronze level. Activities submitted in any subsequent year may not duplicate those for which a prior bronze, silver, or gold award was earned.

CATEGORIES

Service Leadership

TSA Service Leadership activities are designed to help members develop abilities in planning, promoting, and completing projects that help their communities. They encourage members to grow as future leaders through fundraising, volunteering, networking, and other community service endeavors.

STEM Immersion

TSA STEM Immersion activities aim to expose members to contemporary topics in science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics. They enable members to gain real-world experience in various disciplines to help them explore their interests outside of the classroom.

Personal/Professional Development

TSA Personal/Professional Development activities help members set goals, learn about their roles in a technology-oriented society, and become prepared for the workforce. These activities encourage members to reflect on their interests to make wise personal decisions about selecting and preparing for a career.

REQUIREMENTS

1. Affiliated members of TSA have access to/are enrolled in the TSA Achievement Program.
2. Members work to achieve bronze, silver, and gold level awards in the program; awards are earned in sequence.



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REQUIREMENTS (continued)

3. To attain the awards, members must successfully engage in the required number of activities at each level:
 - a. **Bronze award:** The member must complete one activity in each of the three categories in the bronze level, for a total of three activities.
 - b. **Silver award:** The member must complete one activity in each of the three categories in the silver level, for a total of three activities.
 - c. **Gold award:** The member must complete one activity in each of the three categories in the gold level, for a total of three activities.
4. Activities completed prior to the current school year may not be considered for the program.
5. Unless otherwise stated, written documentation required for an activity must be between 100 and 300 words.
6. Members must upload the required documentation for a completed activity in the Student Member Site.
7. For the entirety of the program, or unless otherwise stated, documentation for an activity may be submitted only once.
8. The chapter advisor will verify successful completion of a member's activities for each level.
9. A member will automatically advance to the next level once the chapter advisor has approved the required three activities in the prior level.
10. TSA Achievement Program activities and verifications are subject to audit by the TSA state advisor and/or national TSA.

AWARDS

Bronze awards are typically presented at the chapter or district level during special award assemblies, regional conferences, TSA banquets, etc. Recognition of silver award recipients is managed at the state level, usually at state conferences. Gold award recipients are recognized at the national TSA conference.

AWARD PINS AND FEES

Bronze and silver award pins are available for purchase through the TSA Store at tsastore.mybrightsites.com, as follows:

- **Bronze:** Chapters advisors must use a code – found under the Total TSA tab in the TSA chapter advisor site – to purchase Bronze award pins for eligible members. (Recipient responsibility for pin fees, if required, is determined at the local level.)
- **Silver:** State advisors must use a code – found under the Total TSA tab in the TSA state advisor site – to purchase Silver award pins for eligible members. (Recipient responsibility for pin fees, if required, is determined at the state level.)

Recognition pins for the Gold level award have no fees; pins will be distributed at the annual national TSA conference.

The TSA Achievement Program was created in the 1980s and remained in effect through 2016. During the 2021-2022 school year, the national TSA officers took on the task of reviewing and revising the content of the program - for a fall 2022 launch. The result of the officers' leadership and dedicated work is the TSA Achievement Program, Pathways to Excellence. TSA extends its sincere thanks to the 2021-2022 national TSA officer team: Gowri Rangu, President; Alyssa Haider, Vice President; Esha Bolar, Secretary; Evan Grove, Treasurer; Arnav Dhingra, Reporter; and Avery Broggi, Sergeant-at-Arms.



Bronze Level

One activity from each of the three categories (service leadership, STEM immersion, personal/professional development) must be completed.

SERVICE LEADERSHIP

1. Participate in an American Cancer Society (ACS) fundraiser with your chapter. Provide written documentation summarizing the experience.
2. Volunteer for a community event. Provide written documentation summarizing the experience.
3. Attend a school board meeting. Provide written documentation summarizing the meeting.
4. Volunteer at a community organization, such as a soup kitchen. Provide written documentation describing the experience.
5. With other chapter members, plan a chapter service project. Record a description of the project and the plan, using a timeline and a list of activities.

STEM IMMERSION

1. Take a STEM-related class offered at your school. Record the name of the class, the STEM component addressed, and how it may help you pursue your STEM education or future career.
2. Compete in a TSA competition that is listed under “STEM (General)” or “STEM and the Arts” on the TSA website. Provide written documentation that includes the name of the event, the level of competition (school or regional), and a summary of the experience.
3. Write a report (between 300 and 500 words) that addresses why mathematics is important universally and how it is applied in a real-world STEM situation.
4. Imagine that it is the year 2050. What new STEM TSA event would you expect to see in the roster of TSA competitions? Write a report (between 300 and 500 words) explaining the event.
5. Attend or watch a lecture (at least 45 minutes long) in relation to STEM. Provide written documentation (between 300 and 500 words) about the topic and what you learned from the lecture.

PERSONAL/PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

1. Identify a career field of interest to you and three job positions within that field. Record the field, the job positions, and the educational background needed for each position.
2. Identify three of your strengths and three of your weaknesses. Provide written documentation that addresses how these characteristics align with a particular STEM occupation or career field.
3. Write a list of courses you plan to enroll in before graduating from high school. (Current seniors: list any college courses, certifications, or training you will need to complete before entering the workforce.)
4. Write thank you cards to three of your teachers. Include the lessons and skills they taught that have had an impact on you. Provide copies of the cards.
5. Create an informational poster or graphic for a STEM occupation.



Silver Level

One activity from each of the three categories (service leadership, STEM immersion, personal/professional development) must be completed.

SERVICE LEADERSHIP

1. Serve as a TSA chapter officer. Record the position held and the start and end dates of your service.
2. With your chapter members, plan an American Cancer Society (ACS) fundraiser at the regional or state level. Provide written documentation that describes the plan.
3. Complete 10+ hours of community service. Provide written documentation that describes the service experience(s) and up to three photos.
4. Assist in a technology and engineering education open house. Provide written documentation about the open house experience and up to three photos.
5. Organize a charity drive (example: food drive). Provide written documentation summarizing the drive; include a timeline.

STEM IMMERSION

1. Assist your chapter advisor or technology teacher with tutoring. Provide written documentation about the experience.
2. Place in the top three at the school or regional level in a TSA event that is listed under “STEM (General)” or “STEM and the Arts” on the TSA website. Record the name(s) of the event(s) and dates of participation.
3. Apply engineering skills to construct a bridge out of straws that can hold a cup of 100 pennies. Provide a video or written documentation of the process involved.
4. Create a mock resume for a job in a STEM field. Provide the job title, the resume created for the job, and written documentation that explains why you chose this job and how your resume supports the job.
5. Create a presentation about STEM and its importance in today’s world. Provide documentation of the presentation, using an attachment or link to the presentation.

PERSONAL/PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

1. Write a resume that reflects your education and experience.
2. Write a list of three realistic long-term education goals and a plan to achieve each of them.
3. Create/write a schedule for a TSA member that provides an organized plan to prepare for a TSA competition.
4. Have a conversation with an adult professional about his/her respective career field. Provide written documentation that summarizes and reflects on the conversation.
5. Identify 10 questions that a potential employer may ask during a job interview. Write your response to each of the 10 questions.



Gold Level

One activity from each of the three categories (service leadership, STEM immersion, personal/professional development) must be completed.

SERVICE LEADERSHIP

1. Serve as a TSA state officer. Record the position held and the start and end dates of your service.
2. Serve as a national TSA officer. Record the position held and the start and end dates of your service.
3. Complete 20+ hours of community service. Provide written documentation about the service, describing the experience(s) and providing up to three photos.
4. Give a report on TSA to a community group. Document the event with the name of the community group, the date of the presentation, and an outline of topics covered in the report.
5. Intern/assist at a community organization. Provide written documentation about the service, including the name of the organization and the dates of service.

STEM IMMERSION

1. Shadow a professional in a STEM-related field. Provide written documentation describing what you learned from the shadow experience.
2. Write a paper (between 500 and 1000 words) describing how involvement in STEM can have an impact on higher education choices and careers.
3. Host an event in your school that highlights different STEM careers. Provide written documentation about the event, including the name and date of the event and up to three photos.
4. Earn college credit (Advance Placement, Dual-Credit, etc.) in a STEM class. Record the name of the class, the type of college credit earned, and the start and end dates of the class.
5. Program a simplified version of an online/video game with a programming software (such as Scratch). Record the programming steps.

PERSONAL/PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

1. Attend a career-oriented field trip or online seminar. Record the name of the field trip or seminar, the location, and the date(s) of attendance.
2. Hold a paid job position for at least six months. Record the job title, the company or organization name, and the start and end dates of your paid position.
3. Invite a guest speaker from a technology-related field to present at a chapter meeting. Take notes during the presentation and have at least three questions prepared. Provide written documentation of the presentation (and accompanying questions) that includes the name of the guest speaker, the speaker's technology career field, the date of the presentation, and a summary derived from your notes.
4. Write an article for the school newspaper or create a social media post about the importance of technology and engineering education. Provide documentation of the article or social media post.
5. Think back about a personal or professional decision you made that did not end the way you expected. What led you to make the decision, and how do you plan to change your way of thinking for future decisions? Write a response of between 500 and 1000 words.