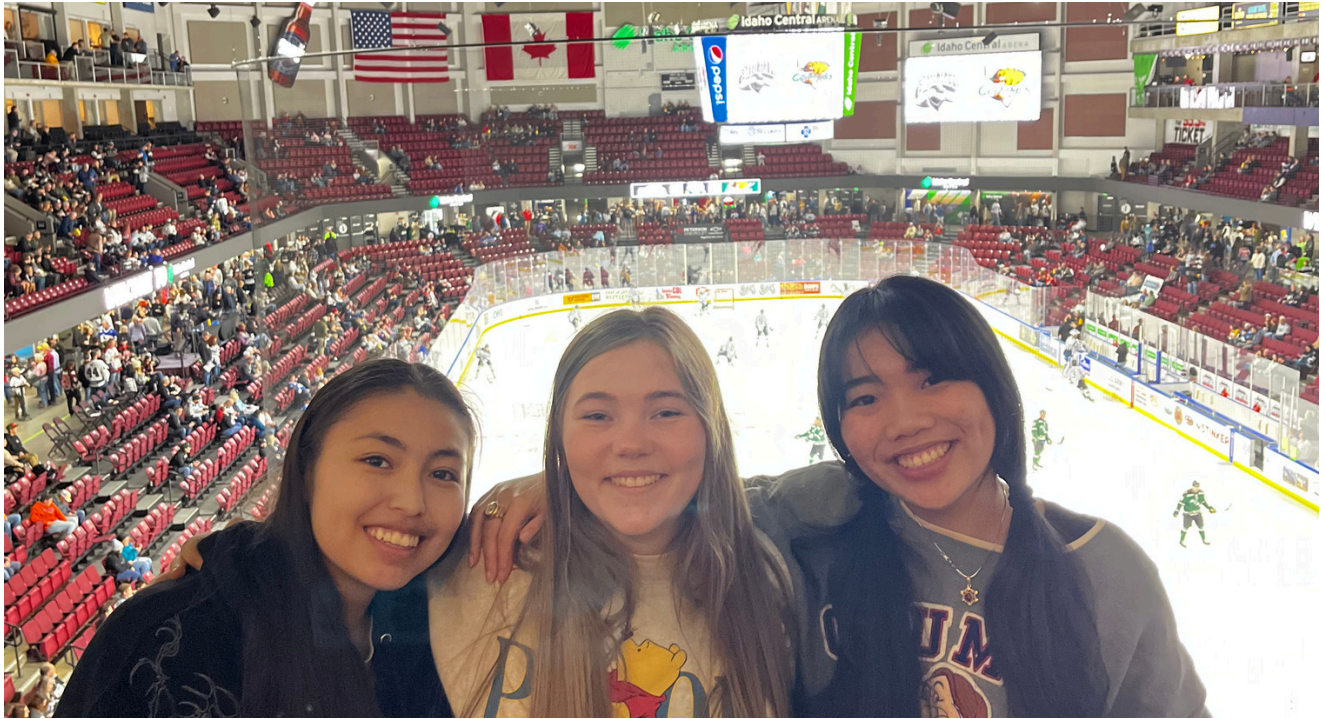


# NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2026



## STATE OFFICER UPDATES

### Waypoint Conference

Local officers from each CTSO, including TSA, spoke at the waypoint conference on October 7<sup>th</sup>. We spoke about the Career & Academic Impact CTSO's had on us as leaders, what leadership & teamwork skills were developed through our role as state officers and so much more. It was an honor to advocate for the value of CTSO's in Idaho education.



from all of our CTSO state officers. It was an incredible time with a lot of learning opportunities and strategies to apply for chapters.

### BASIC Conference

Thank you to everyone who came to the BASIC conference. 900 chapter officers from all around Idaho attended our basic conference. This year, officers from all CTSOs came together to learn



# STATE OFFICER APPLICATIONS ARE OPEN

Idaho TSA State Officer applications are officially open! To all current chapter officers looking to expand their leadership opportunities, this opportunity is something you cannot pass up on. The link to the application is at the end of this section for easy access. If this sounds like something you would find interesting, please feel free to apply.

Please make sure to fill out the application with ample time before the deadline of February 6th at 11:59 PM in order to ensure you are considered.

<https://idahocte.jotform.com/233413966529868>



## Scholarships

You as a member of TSA, can apply for TSA scholarships. We offer these for students who are involved with the our CTSO. We have 3 key scholarships that we offer. For more information, please follow the link at the bottom of this section

### 1. William P. Elrod Memorial

The William P. Elrod Memorial Scholarship was made in honor of William Elrod and his longstanding involvement in TSA. The Board of Directors for TSA holds funds to annually award in his honor. This scholarship stands at \$2,500. If you've been active in TSA for a long time and are dedicated to the mission of it, it's recommended that you apply for the chance of being awarded the scholarship.

### 2. TSA Alumni/ae

This scholarship is awarded to alumni of TSA. If you are a senior, it is something you should consider looking into, as after graduating, as the awarded funds are \$1,000 for past TSA members.

### 3. National Technical Honor Society

The National Technical Honor Society is a scholarship honoring students in CTE programs, awarding \$300,000 to members annually. You must be a member of both TSA and the National Technical Honor Society, and the scholarship stands at an awards of \$1,000.

[HTTPS://TSAWEB.ORG/PROGRAMS/AWARD-S-AND-SCHOLARSHIPS](https://tsaweb.org/programs/award-s-and-scholarships)

## TSA MIXER

The TSA State Officer team is introducing a new event to the TSA State Leadership Conference - Member Mixer. From 12:30-3:00 PM, meet with members from across the state, speak with your candidates, and state officer, and enjoy music. Snacks will be provided so please come and enjoy this new event!

Following the mixer, we will be playing the movie Cars, to match our theme of "Accelerating to Excellence" so please come and enjoy watching with your fellow members. Don't just come to SLC to compete, come to have fun and meet new members.

## THURSDAY, FEB 26TH

3 p.m.	Project check-in	Dragster, board game, children's book, animatronics
	Registration	
5 p.m.	Opening	
6:30 p.m.	<b>Time Slot Events</b>	<b>Block Events</b>
	Flight Endurance	Dragster
	Drone Challenge	Technology Bowl**
	Prepare Presentation	
	Future Tech and Engineering Teacher	
	Webmaster	
	Architectural Design	
	Geospatial Technology	
	Chapter Team**	
	Robotics	

## FRIDAY, FEB 27TH

7:30 a.m.	Check-in	
8 a.m.	<b>Time Slot Events</b>	<b>Block Events</b>
	Animatronics	CAD Architecture
	Board Game Design	CAD-Engineering
	Children's Stories	System Control Technology
	Digital Video Production*	Coding**
	Forensic Science**	
	Music Production*	
	Photographic Technology	
	Transportation Modeling	
	Virtual Reality Visualization	
	Video Game Design*	
11:30 a.m.	Lunch	
12:30 p.m.	<b>Time Slot Events</b>	<b>Block Events</b>
	Audio Podcasting*	Technology Problem Solving
	Biotech Design	Promotional Design
	Engineering Design	
	Data Science and Analytics*	
	Debating Technology Issues	
	Extemporaneous Speech	
	Fashion Design	
	Manufacturing Prototype	
	Software Development	
	Structural Design	
3 p.m.	Business Meeting	
6 p.m.	Closing and Awards	

## SLC Tentative Schedule

Written below, we have the tentative SLC event schedule. It is subject to some minor changes between now and the conference, but will remain similar to how it is now. Time slot events can have multiple entries in one time slot. However, events take up the entire competition time slot, so plan you event decisions accordingly!

### Thursday February 26th

3:00 PM

Project Check-In for: Dragster, Board Game, Children's Book, Animatronics

Registration

5:00 PM

Opening Session

6:30 PM

Time Slot Events: Flight Endurance, Drone Challenge, Prepare Presentation, Future Tech and Engineer Teacher, Webmaster, Architectural Design, Geospatial Technology, Chapter Team, Robotics

Block Events: Dragster & Technology Bowl

### Friday February 27th

7:30 AM

Check-In

8:00 AM

Time Slot Events: Animatronics, Board Game Design, Children's Story, Digital Video Production, Forensic Science, Music Production, Music Production, Photographic Technology, Transportation Modeling, Virtual Reality Visualization, Video Game Design

Block Events: CAD-Architecture, CAD-Engineering, System Control Technology, Coding

3:00 PM

Business Meeting

6:00 PM

Closing Session and Awards

#### Pre-Submit Events:

Digital Video Production, Music Production, Video Game Design, Audio Podcasting, Data Science and Analytics

#### Events with Preliminary

#### Testing:

Chapter Team, Technology Bowl, Forensic Science, Coding



## Top 10 Things to do before SLC

1. Finalize Event Selection
2. Prepare Documentation
3. Host collaborative work days
4. Review member events to give feedback
5. Plan Chapter Fundraising
6. Organize Chapter-wide Community Action/Service
7. Complete State Officer Applications
8. Organize SLC Information Meetings before Conference
9. Organize a chapter bonding activity
10. Set Personal Goals for SLC



## How to Prepare for SLC

As far away as it seems, SLC is approaching quickly, so here are some things to help you prepare for SLC as a member and as a chapter.

### Member

As a member, there are a couple of things you should have as your top priority:

#### 1. Prepare your events.

Many of the events that you may choose to compete in this year require either extensive documentation and/or a long time to design and finalize. This means, it's never bad to start early. Preparing your events early means that you can iterate, design, and work without worry or stress. Take the time to enjoy the events you

chose and create something that you are proud of.

#### 2. Chapter Fundraising

The best way to have funds to travel to state and increase the chapter materials for various events in TSA. To do this, the best way is through fundraising. Whether through restaurant affiliate programs, school-wide fundraising, selling creations, holding an event, or anything else you and your chapter can think up. Fundraising is a great way to get your members and officer cabinet to bond over shared experiences. Fundraising gives chapters the funds to make travel to SLC possible, and for a growth in resources without relying only on member dues, reducing costs to join TSA.

#### 3. Practice Presentation

For many events, it isn't just the technical creation that you are scored on, it's your presentation as well. Practicing those presentations allows you to feel more confident when you present it in front of your judge. You can also hold presentation practice meetings or optional times to allow newer or less confident members to improve in their public speaking portions. It's one thing to get feedback from a judge, but it's even more applicable when the feedback comes in real time by a fellow member hoping that you succeed.

#### 4. Documentation

Make sure to have completed your required documentation for presubmission and prepared before the deadline. Even if not required, printing it out in preparation for SLC can help you stand out as presentation ready.