

NASSCED Member Resource Survey 2010

#8

State Represented *	Tennessee
Organization Represented *	Tennessee Association of Student Councils
Executive Director #1 *	Marquita Thomas
E-Mail Address *	mthomas@tnasc.org
Executive Director #2	
Executive Director #3	
Executive Director #4	
Approximate Number of Member Schools *	125
Annual Membership Fee	\$50
Does your membership elect State Officer...	Students/Individuals
Please describe how your association selects its State Officers/Schools:	Students represent their schools but run as individuals. They must submit an Intent to Run Form to our Vice-President 30 days prior to the opening of our state convention. The form must be sent through certified/receipt-requested mail. At the state convention candidates run an active campaign. "State" officers are elected by all delegates, with each member school being allowed to cast up to 5 votes. "Area" officers are elected in area meetings. Areas are divided according to the 3 geographic regions of our state.
Which best describes the sponsorship (if any) of your association?	Independent of your State Principals Association
Is the Executive Director of your association a full-time position?	No - with a stipend
Does your association currently have 501(c)3 non-profit status?	Yes - as a stand alone organization
State Convention 2010-2011 date	
For your State Convention, how are students primarily housed?	Mix of host families and hotel stay
For your State Convention, what is your primary meeting facility?	School Building
Please identify and describe a unique or outstanding aspect of your State Convention.	We typically sponsor a t-shirt auction. Delegates bring t-shirts from their schools to be sold. We have an auctioneer--usually a student who actually has been trained as an auctioneer. The proceeds from the sale are donated to our state charity which is currently the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

Other Conference/Event #1, with 2010-2011 date	Executive Board Retreat, August 20-22
Other Conference/Event #2, with 2010-2011 date	High School Level Fall Workshops: October 6, November 4, and November 13
Other Conference/Event #3, with 2010-2011 date	Middle Level Fall Workshops: November 12, November 13 and November 19
Please identify and describe a unique or outstanding aspect of one of the three events listed above.	Our fall workshops draw delegates from all areas of our state. These workshops are the only events that TASC sponsors that are open to students from non-member schools.
Does your association currently include middle level schools as members?	Yes
As State Officers?	YES
As Regional or District Officers, within your state?	YES
At the same state Conventions or Conferences?	YES
At their own state Conventions or Conferences?	NO
At Regional conferences?	YES
At NASC L.E.A.D. Conferences?	YES
At NASC National Conferences?	YES
In the same award programs as high schools?	YES
In their own award programs?	YES
Does your association conduct a summer leadership program?	YES
If your answer above was YES, please list below the name and summer 2011 date (if known) for each of your summer programs:	Officer Training Workshop takes place the Sunday-Monday before our Leadership Camp begins. Leadership Camp runs Monday-Friday typically the 3rd week in July but our dates are determined by the availability of the 4-H Center where our camp is held. Those dates are not released until after January 1.
What is the fee per delegate for your summer program?	\$225.00
Have a separate advanced level program?	NO
Have a separate middle level program?	NO
Serve as a prerequisite to becoming a State Officer?	NO

Award/Program #1 Description:	Four Star Council--Councils must complete at least 20 projects during the school year. Projects must be completed in designated categories. Summaries of each project are submitted by a deadline. If a school meets the criteria, they receive the designation of being a Four Star Council. This is not a competitive award.
Award/Program #2 Description:	Platinum Award--This award goes to the top performing councils in our state. Recipients must have been designated as Four Star Councils the year before and must have completed a scrapbook for TASC's scrapbook competition. Platinum councils must be actively involved in TASC events by sending delegates to all events that our association sponsors. Platinum councils must also submit articles for TASC's newsletter. This is not a competitive award.
Award/Program #3 Description:	We have recently added a Council T-Shirt and Council Flag competition to our awards programs. Councils bring t-shirts and/or flags to the convention to be judged. This is a competitive award. We also recently added an electronic scrapbook competition in addition to our old-fashioned scrapbook format.
How does your association deal with the issue of advisor turnover?	Probably not very well. We are working to improve communication and support, but everyone working with our association is a volunteer and time is hard to come by. We try to host an Advisors' Workshop each year and new advisors are encouraged to come. At our state convention we have a session for new advisors and we try to make use of mentors as we can.
What is another significant problem currently facing your association, and how are you dealing with it?	Our biggest problem is that so many of the people who are willing to give of their time to make our organization successful don't have the time to spare. We are trying to involve new people and trying to "plan smarter."
What advice do you have for someone who has just become a new Executive Director?	Don't be afraid to ask questions! There are lots of people who are willing to help...and asking those questions opens the door.

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