The Time is Here

By now, all of our regions have hosted their Regional Fairs and are preparing themselves for this year's State Conference in Richmond. For many, this is the first time they will experience Technosphere, and for various others it will be the last. Regardless of what situation you are in, it is time to embrace all that you will or have accomplished during your time in TSA. Our organization's mission statement says this:

"The Virginia Association of the Technology Student Association fosters personal growth, leadership, and opportunities in technology, innovation, design, and engineering. Members apply and integrate science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) concepts through co-curricular activities, competitions and related programs."

It is evident that TSA successfully carries out all of the promises in this statement. But what else does TSA do that isn't reflected on paper? Bonding with people from across the state and having friendships that will last for the rest of your life? Helping you step outside your comfort zone? Keeping you up to date on the newest, and coolest, technology? I say, all of the above. TSA is not just a school club that you will forget you were in after graduation. TSA is a student run organization that will help you throughout the rest of your life. The skills you learn, the choices you make, the opportunities you embrace, and the connections you have because of TSA are life changing and should not be taken lightly.

So congratulations, YOU are working yourself toward a brighter future by participating, challenging yourself, and loving every minute of being a member of Virginia TSA.
Blue Ridge Region Spring Fair

No article or photographs have been submitted at this time.

Northern Region Spring Fair

On March 9th, The Northern region had its annual spring conference. This year it was held at Mount Vernon High School which is located just a mile from George Washington’s home. With over 800 students and advisors in attendance, it was a blast.

Along with competitions, students participated in our relay for life fund raiser which raises money to fight cancer. Our council came up with an interesting idea to raise money this year. Each officer had a jar with their name on it. The officer that raised the most money in his or her jar got pied in the face in front of everybody on the stage. We were able to raise just under $200 dollars that day.

Our Guest Speaker this year was Mary Joe Paterson who is the national TSA competitions manager. She gave a great speech about life ambition and our role as the future leaders of tomorrow. She did a great job giving motivation for the students. I hope next year’s conference will be just as fun, constructive, and fortuitous.
South Central Region Spring Fair

The halls of Highland Springs High School were filled with a great spirit of competition March 2nd as over 500 members, parents and advisors attended the 2013 South Central Region Spring Fair. Attendees were able to raise money for Relay for Life by paying for Mario Kart Races, win awards in any of the 32 competitions, and reconnect with other TSA members and Advisors from across the region! The successful event culminated with the installation of the 2013-2014 South Central Region Officer Team led by, for the second year in a row, Kathryn Hutchins-Duda.
Southwestern Region Spring Fair

On March 2nd 2013, The Southwestern Region held their Spring Fair at the W. N. Neff Center in Abingdon, VA. With 76 competitors in attendance, it was a successful competition. Our Officers, Advisors, Judges, and Parents worked together to prepare our students for the next level of competition, Technosphere, which will be held in Richmond at the beginning of May. During this competition, new Regional officers were elected. The 2012-2013 Southwestern Region President, Kurtis Gross, is pictured passing the gavel to Erin Sullivan, the new 2013-2014 Southwestern Region President. She will be representing the Southwestern Regional President at Virginia’s Executive Meetings for the 2013-2014 school year. Local restaurants and grocery stores helped E. B. Stanley Middle School provide a fundraising lunch and adults from area businesses provided judges to help us run a successful fair. The Southwestern Region officers thank the people in our community for their support of the Technology Student Association.
The Tidewater Region conducted its spring fair on Saturday, March 2, 2013 at St. Clare Walker Middle School in Locust Hill, VA. Middle school and high school students from all over the region visited Middlesex for this regional fair. Volunteers from near and far showed their support for these young leaders as judges, coordinators, and student supervisors. TSA members assembled in the auditorium where the Tidewater Regional TSA president, Brett Fochtmann of Middlesex High School, called the meeting to order with the Tidewater Regional board. Middlesex County School Superintendent, Dr. Taylor welcomed guests to Middlesex County and congratulated the students for being a part of TSA. Then guest speaker Mr. James Wright, a resident of Deltaville, VA, and a graduate of Princeton University with a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering; shared five points for students to keep in mind as they go through life. He was sure to advocate for the importance of technology in today’s society as well as the future. However, he cautioned students to understand that technology “has no emotion, and it can do a lot of good or a lot of harm. It is the people behind the technology who determine the intent of the constantly advancing technology.”

The competition began promptly after the general meeting. Students presented projects that they have been working on throughout the school year. Some of the most popular events were middle and high school Dragster Design, Essays on Technology, and Flight Endurance. The competition concluded with the presentation of awards. Students who placed in the top three at the regional fair will compete against other regional finalists from around the state in those events at Technosphere.

Mr. Odom, Mr. Short, and I are very appreciative of the many TSA advisors, volunteers, and judges that supported the event. Additionally, the Tidewater Regional Board and I would like to thank all the Tidewater TSA members and parents for coming out to the Middle Peninsula of Virginia for this event and good luck at Technosphere.
Valley Region Spring Fair

The 2012-2013 Valley Regional Officer Team called the opening session to order early in the morning on March 9, 2013. The Valley Regional Fair began as they have since I joined TSA, with a general chaos in the Wilson Middle School multi-purpose room. The officers went through the opening ceremony and recognized Jill Pritts, the Virginia TSA State President, as our honored guest.

After the assembly roused themselves, the competitions got underway, which, as always in the Valley, were fierce. During the interlude, when we ourselves weren’t competing, the Regional Council, in conjunction with the State Officers who were present, hatched a scheme. Masks were distributed to key individuals, as well as certain other props. The Virginia TSA State Secretary, Caleb Gum, also a member of Turner Ashby TSA, was filmed walking into the empty multipurpose room wearing a helmet and making odd jerking motions. The plan was on.

The assembly returned, and awards were presented to the key contributors to the Valley Fair effort. This included the advisors who helped make it possible as well as the Regional Council. And despite his best efforts, Mr. Ridgeway was also presented an award as he attempted to leave the stage.

Caleb Gum was called onstage. He announced that the assemblies help was needed, instructing everyone to rise. Once they did, he announced the grand plot: the assembly would be part of the making of the Valley TSA Harlem Shake video. Sierra Swisher, Virginia TSA State Vice President and member of Buffalo Gap High School TSA, generously volunteered her smartphone, which was held to a microphone to amplify the music. On starting the music, the assembly went berserk as the Regional President filmed the whole thing, given that he has two very left feet. Mr. Ridgeway, however, clearly has “the moves,” as he was taking center stage. The music ended, and we somehow returned to semi-order for the awards ceremony.

After the awards, only one thing remained: the installation of next year’s regional council and the passing of the gavel. The Regional President gave his farewell address, and next year’s team took their places. In a final act as Regional President, Caleb Hurst handed the worn gavel to his successor, Sydney Walker, of Stuarts Draft High School, who closed the meeting, ushering in a new era in Valley TSA.

As the assembly began to disperse, I thought back on my own experiences within the Valley. Supported by a tremendous group of advisors, the Valley Region is something that’s made me grateful to those who have come before me for establishing such a respectable precedent. The Valley, for many, is the very first experience in TSA, and it represents the organization well. The Valley Regional Fair is the culmination of many such efforts, and this year’s was a success. With such a tradition, nothing less would have been sufficient.
Hello, Virginia TSA. One of the most helpful things that any TSA chapter can do to support its members is to fundraise. In changing economic times, these fundraisers which support our members’ trips to conventions are in danger. Over the last five years, I have seen a lot of fundraising projects succeed, and some that have failed, and there are several types of fundraisers that always seem to work well.

**Outreach:**
First, try to find something to do out in the community. My TSA chapter has a long-running relationship with our county fair, and one major fundraiser we perform every year is setting up for each of the bands that play in the grandstands. We get paid a sum which our advisor divides up amongst the workers by hours worked, and we get to interact and meet the bands and their crews and have a good time together. Working out in the community like this is good because it not only provides good funds, but it builds the reputation and image of TSA in the eyes of the public. The county fair knows that our members always have a good work ethic and will do better each day the task before us.

**Joint Fundraising:**
As a secondary fundraiser, my middle school TSA chapter would tag along with our school’s FFA chapter for two of their fruit sales. That is, our members sold product for their club, but whatever revenue the club received from our members was given back to TSA. While this may not work for every school, it is a good way to build relationships between clubs and is a good start off for planning your own fundraisers.

**Concessions:**
One of my favorite fundraisers that I do every year is selling concessions at our school’s track meets. If possible, try to get your chapter to take over or assist in the concessions stand for a sporting event. You can have members take shifts cooking, being runners, and even selling sports drinks to thirsty athletes! This kind of fundraiser is great because if run correctly it can yield a great profit and lets TSA members show their school spirit too. You get to watch your team compete while earning money to help send you to Technospace and beyond!

These are just a few great ways to help your chapter raise money to support you. If you ever have any questions about fundraising or anything, please feel free to email me at calebgumtsa@gmail.com anytime.

Respectfully Submitted,
Caleb Gum
Virginia TSA Secretary
Relay for Life

What is a goal? According to dictionary.com, a goal is the result or achievement toward which effort is directed. In simpler terms, a goal is something that you set and work towards for a specific amount of time. The 2012-2013 Executive Council has set a goal to raise $3,000 for the American Cancer Society that will be presented to National TSA on behalf of Virginia TSA. The goal is achievable, but we need your help. It’s time for YOU to start fundraising and spreading the word about Relay for Life and how it benefits the people in our communities. Get busy. Have fun. Make a difference. Every service or fund donated to the American Cancer Society could help save another life.

If you have any questions or suggestions, do not hesitate to contact Sierra Swisher, the State Community Service Project Committee Chair at sierracswisher@gmail.com.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sierra Swisher

Join the Resolutions Committee

Greeting Virginia TSA! The Resolutions Committee is in need of your help. The purpose of the Resolutions Committee is to handle all resolutions submitted to the Executive Council and ensure that they are presented and evaluated appropriately at both the Executive Council meetings and at Technosphere. The committee has one problem: No resolutions have yet to be submitted. A resolution is an important form of a main motion usually used to address lengthy issues. The form is as follows:

Whereas, We consider that suitable recreation is a necessary part of a rational educational system; and

Whereas, There is no public ground in this village where our school children can play; therefore,

Resolved, That it is the sense of this meeting that ample play grounds should be immediately provided for our school children.

Resolved, That a committee of five be appointed by the chair to present these resolutions to the village authorities and to urge upon them prompt action in the matter.

On behalf of the Virginia TSA Resolutions Committee, we hope that you will use this information about what a resolution is and its purpose to bring an issue of importance to the attention of the Executive Council and the Virginia TSA. If you have any questions or would like to submit a resolution, feel free to contact any of the Executive Council officers or Mr. State Advisor.

Resolution example taken from: http://www.bartleby.com/176/4.html
Competitive Event Feedback

Wow, where has the year gone? It seems like we just left Technosphere 2012 and Technosphere 2013 is just a few short weeks away! The Year has been busy and full of activity. One change Virginia TSA is attempting to make is to provide the best FEEDBACK possible on each of your event entries. We implemented a new procedure for Feedback during Spring Regional Fairs. However, even though various methods of communicating the new process was attempted, it seems very few of you took advantage of the process.

The truest form of feedback is the scoring rubric used by the judges. If you desire to receive feedback on your event, YOU must print a scoring rubric for your event and place it in your Notebook or with your event materials. The Rubrics are found on the Total TSA CD that your advisor received from TSA when they affiliated your chapter. Each rubric is just behind the Rules for each event.

Once you have printed your Rubric, Using a Sharpie, Mark the Very Top as FEEDBACK then place your event sticker on the top as shown below. This Feedback form should then be placed with your materials before turning them in for judging.

Please remember, all our judges are volunteers and we encourage them to provide Feedback. They may or may not choose to do so. Many are giving up valuable time from their jobs to provide you with the best experience possible.

Best Wishes to you in each of your events this year!

Andy Stephenson
Virginia TSA State Advisor
Senior Farewells

I would like to thank you all for the opportunity to serve you these past couple of years as your Historian. It has been amazing to see how a group of students can get together and organize events for TSA. Many people say this but without TSA I would not be the person I am today! TSA is a benefit to every student that takes advantage of the opportunity to expand their horizons.

In the fall I will be attending Longwood University for communications/public relations and graphic design. TSA has helped me get a better understanding and vision for what I want to do with the rest of my life. The leadership skills I have gained over the past four or five years are “life skills” that will serve me wherever I go and whatever I do. (For kicks you should attend your local town council sometime and witness firsthand how NOT to run a meeting. They generally make such a mess of Roberts Rules. It really is quite entertaining and something that only a well-versed TSA student can enjoy.) I can’t wait to take on the challenges of college. Leaving home to go away to college is one of those moments in life that is at once totally scary and yet completely thrilling. But because of what I’ve experienced in TSA, I feel absolutely capable to handle well whatever comes my way.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gretchen Gross

Over the past seven years, the Technology Student Association has made a huge difference in my life. It has given me confidence, leadership skills, and friends that I would not have found elsewhere. Upon graduation, I will use what this organization has taught me in my undergraduate studies at the University of Virginia, the first step on my path to medical school. I hope that you have all had a fantastic year this year and will continue to take advantage of what TSA has to offer you!

Alexander Graham Bell once said,” When one door closes, another opens; but we often look so long and so regretfully upon the closed door that we do not see the one that has opened for us.” Let’s all try to keep our eyes open and take advantage of the opportunities that are right at our feet!

Respectfully Submitted,

Sierra Swisher
We Would Love to Hear From You!

ATTENTION ALL WRITERS, JOURNALISTS, NOTE TAKERS, POETS, STORYTELLERS AND COLUMNISTS!

Get your pencils ready for this great opportunity! There is one thing this issue of the scene is missing, and that’s YOUR story! The Virginia TSA Executive Council wants to hear from you. So here’s the deal. Whenever you see your school, chapter, community, an individual, an advisor, or anyone else doing something awesome, write an article and send it in to mkirbytsa@gmail.com. The council will review them at the next meeting and, who knows, yours might show up in the next issue of the scene! Get writing!

See Your Pictures in the TSA Yearbook

As this years State Historian and this year I would like to make a digital yearbook for TSA. In order to do this, I need your help. I am requesting that you send in pictures of your fall rallies, regional fairs, this past years state and national conferences, and any other TSA functions you have participated in. The yearbook will be made in a PDF format so you will be able to upload the pictures or make a hard copy for yourself. In doing this, you will help me in making TSA’s very first yearbook.

If you have any pictures please send them to gretchenmae144@gmail.com

Thank you for your help,
Gretchen Gross

http://aftonstationblog-laurel.blogspot.com/2012/05/what.html
**Upcoming Events**

Virginia Scene Submissions Due – April 10th  
Technosphere 2013 - May 3rd-May 5th  
Virginia Scene Posting – May 23rd  
New Officers Workshop – June 7th-June 9th  
National TSA Conference- June 28th-July 2nd

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**Explore!**  
www.VirginiaTSA.org