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Please refer to the online version of this guide for easy access to linked resources: http://apps.nasponline.org/resources-and-publications/audience/students/leader.aspx

We’re here to help! Please always feel free to reach out to Brittany Zakszeski, Student Leader Coordinator of the Graduate Student Committee, at brittany.zakszeski@gmail.com.
Dear Student Leader:

Thank you for serving as your program’s NASP Student Leader for the 2018–2019 year. You play a vital role in helping NASP implement all of its important student initiatives this year!

Has your Faculty Sponsor nominated a second Student Leader to help you carry out your NASP responsibilities? If you are interested in working with a coleader, please encourage your Faculty Sponsor to nominate a second student. While only two students may serve as Student Leaders, additional students are welcome and encouraged to participate as team members, if you think it would be beneficial.

The Student Leader program helps facilitate communication between your program and students, and NASP. To help you execute your responsibilities, Brittany Zakszeski, Student Leader Coordinator from the NASP Graduate Student Committee (GSC) will send you regularly scheduled communication. Over the course of the year, you will be invited to participate in several important activities, including:

- Sending monthly communications to the students in your program
- Organizing activities around School Psychology Awareness Week (fall) and advocacy (spring)
- Developing NASP student resources, like fact sheets, podcasts, and convention presentations
- Participating in the NASP Communities: member-only forums for exchanging information
- Building relationships within the profession and sharing career-building opportunities

In addition to your Student Leader Guide, we have sent you a letter to use for your portfolio recognizing your participation in the program. NASP membership applications and brochures are also enclosed for you to provide to the students in your program. Encourage them to join or renew, while sharing your own positive membership experiences.

We appreciate your involvement, and want to help you have the best experience possible. We are here to support you every step of the way! If you would like to bounce ideas off of us, ask for assistance, request additional materials, or just touch base, we’d love to hear from you. Please contact us at students@naspweb.org.

Sincerely,

Melinda Widlake
NASP Director, Membership and Marketing
A Community Just for Student Leaders

We hope you will connect with other Student Leaders from across the country in the Student Leaders Community. This is the online community for sharing ideas and experiences with other Student Leaders, and for learning which strategies have worked for your peers. As a Student Leader, you should already have access to the community, so you can start networking now! If you have any questions about accessing the community, posting content, or other related inquiries, please contact Melinda Widlake mwidlake@naspweb.org.

Making the Most of Your Student Leader Experience

We want to help answer questions you may have about your role as a Student Leader and to best prepare you for your responsibilities. Let’s walk through each of your responsibilities, step by step.

Sending Out Monthly Communications to the Students in Your Program

You will receive an e-mail with the Student Leader Update the first week of every month from Brittany Zakszeski, the Student Leader Coordinator on the Graduate Student Committee (brittany.zakszeski@gmail.com). The update contains a message for you, as a Student Leader, as well as a message for you to forward to the students in your program. Instructions for how to forward each message, along with any additions or personalization we request you to make, will be included in the portion of the message that is just for you.

Organizing Activities for School Psychology Awareness Week (SPAW) and Advocacy

School Psychology Awareness Week (SPAW) is November 12–16, 2018, and the theme is: Unlock Potential: Find Your Password. Activities can include displaying SPAW posters around campus, distributing brochures about school psychology to local high school students, organizing an information table at the student center, showing appreciation to local school psychology practitioners with thank you cards and baked goods, participating in the social media dialogue, hosting restaurant events to benefit children in need, visiting children’s hospitals, and more! For a more comprehensive list of ideas, see page 5–6. Don’t forget to e-mail a report and photos of your activities to students@naspweb.org to be considered for an annual Student Leader award, and don’t forget to start planning early to ensure great programming.

Advocacy activities can include organizing an outreach campaign for students to contact their representatives to discuss current policies and proposed legislation in education and mental health (see page 6). You are encouraged to contact the NASP delegate in your state and collaborate with them on this activity. The NASP Advocacy Action Center includes helpful resources and allows for you to contact your elected officials with just a few clicks!

Developing NASP Student Resources (Fact Sheets, Podcasts, and Convention Presentations)

Student Leaders are invited to help develop NASP student resources, write for the Student Connections column in Communiqué, and apply to join the Graduate Student Committee that represents students within the NASP leadership. These are great ways to get involved at the national level! Keep an eye out for opportunities in your monthly Student Leader Update.
Participating in the NASP Communities, Member-Only Forums for Exchanging Information

Keep the conversation going in the NASP Graduate Students community! This community is completely separate from the Student Leaders community, which is only for Student Leaders and is a place for Student Leader-specific thoughts, questions, and ideas. The NASP Graduate Students Community is open to all students who are NASP members, and it is a great place to share news articles, resources, and other information with students throughout the country. You can also start a blog in the Communities and write about your experiences, or participate in interest group communities that match your areas of focus.

As a Student Leader, you are also invited to:

- **Educate the students in your program about the benefits of joining NASP.** Go over the membership recruitment presentation with fellow students and convey the benefits you personally have enjoyed as a result of your NASP membership. See pages 6–7 for a more comprehensive list of recruitment activities.

- **Attend the NASP 2019 Annual Convention (February 26–March 1, 2019, in Atlanta, GA).** Connect with school psychology professionals and students from across the country. Encourage students in your program to attend the convention for both professional development and networking. You will also be invited to attend the annual Student Leader/Faculty Sponsor meeting during the convention to network with other Student Leaders, share ideas about your overall experience, and discuss ways the program can improve.

- **Share information about becoming a Nationally Certified School Psychologist (NCSP).** Share information about becoming an NCSP with the students in your program during your spring semester.

- **Encourage participation in NASP’s Find-a-Mentor program.** Student members can search available mentors based on a variety of criteria and select a mentor that best meets their needs. Meet virtually or in person—however you see fit.

- **Keep NASP connected with your program happenings.** Share what’s going on in your program with us on social media—Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram (@nasponline). Always include #NASPadvocates, the official hashtag for this year, and visit our social media pages for how-to documentation. We might showcase your program’s accomplishments to all of our fans and followers.

- **Leverage your relationships with other NASP leaders.** Contact the NASP delegate in your state to introduce yourself—you never know when that introduction might come in handy. Your delegate might be able to help you network, assist with your spring semester advocacy activity, or speak at a student organization meeting on your campus. If you’re not sure who the NASP delegate for your state is, e-mail Katie Britton at kbritton@naspweb.org.

- **Join your state association.** Connect with practicing school psychologists in your state, and ask how you can become more involved.

Celebrate School Psychology Awareness Week (SPAW)

Developing School Psychology Awareness Week activities for your program is a chance to unleash your creativity! We’ve compiled a number of ideas that range from very straightforward to opportunities to showcase your program’s personality. Be sure to share your ideas and experiences in the Student Leaders Community (top of page 5) and visit SPAW 2018 to get resources and ideas for activities.
• **Display the School Psychology Awareness Week poster.** The poster will be enclosed in the October issue of *Communiqué*, and you’re welcome to print them and request more by e-mailing communications@naspweb.org. Place them around your campus (or set up an information table in a high-traffic area) to let students in other departments know about the profession.

• **Distribute brochures and infographics on school psychology.** Distribute the “Who are School Psychologists?” brochures on school psychology at your local high schools, around your college or university campus, or at local community career centers. Give them to school counselors at your practicum site(s) and/or to advisors in the undergraduate psychology program at your university. NASP recently created a companion infographic, which you can print or share on social media.

  Please note that each Student Leader can have two additional School Psychology Awareness Week posters, 25 “Who are School Psychologists?” brochures, and 15 bookmarks delivered to your home or school address for use in promoting the week. All you need to do is ask. E-mail Loraine Tibbs directly at ltibbs@naspweb.org to request your materials.

• **Show appreciation to your professors and to practicing school psychologists.** Say “thank you” with gift cards to coffee shops, lunches and other get-togethers, thank you notes, a Power of One certificate of recognition, or baked goods.

• **Give back through community service.** Visit a children’s hospital, create care packages for children in need, or organize another community service activity specific to your local area.

• **Organize a fundraiser.** Create a fundraiser (e.g., bake sale, 5K walk, party, restaurant event) and raise money for school-based mental health services, children in need, or school psychology student organizations. Hand out information about school psychology and the importance of school-based mental health services.

• **Print your own SPAW T-shirt.** Beginning fall 2018, download the .EPS file from www.nasponline.org/spaw-resources to print branded SPAW T-shirts. Your T-shirt vendor will be able to work with the .EPS file, as special software is required to properly view and edit the file. NASP does not have T-shirts to sell.

**Plan a Spring Advocacy Event**

Professional and legislative advocacy are both critical to promoting the field of school psychology, and to ensuring that children, youth, and families have access to comprehensive school psychological services. It is never too early to start honing your advocacy skills! An example of a spring advocacy event would be organizing a day in which you and your university colleagues engage in a “virtual advocacy day.” You can:

• Visit the [NASP Advocacy Action Center](https://www.nasponline.org/naspadvocacy) and send letters to your elected members of Congress about issues important to children’s mental health and education.

• Call your elected officials’ offices and leave a short message. Watch [this video](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=example_video_id) for quick tips and suggestions on effective outreach.

• Tweet your elected officials and include the #NASPadvocates hashtag.

• Follow [Policy Matters](https://www.nasponline.org/PolicyMatters), NASP’s policy and advocacy blog, for up-to-date policy news from Capitol Hill and across the country, helpful policy and practice guidance, and real-world examples of how NASP, state associations, and individual school psychologists are advocating for change at the national, state, district, and school-building levels.
Ways to Support NASP in Your Program

Interact With Fellow Students

- Be sure to send out the monthly e-mail message (included as part of your Student Leader Update) to your program and encourage your fellow students to take advantage of all the great resources.

- Invite students to become NASP members, share the “Four Great Reasons” membership flyer, and highlight the “NASP Member Benefits by the Numbers” infographic. Tell them how you personally have benefited from membership.

- Talk to another student who is already a NASP member about the benefits you have received by getting involved in NASP leadership. Explore ways that the individual could become more involved through serving as a co-Student Leader, participating in School Psychology Awareness Week or advocacy activities, attending the NASP convention, and more.

- Tell fellow students about the NASP convention and encourage them to take advantage of the student member discount.

- Let other students know about the benefits of becoming a Nationally Certified School Psychologist (NCSP) and share the NCSP postcard.

Interact With State Delegates

- Contact your state delegate, introduce yourself, and generate ideas for collaboration. For example, offer to help with student recruitment or offer to assist with the NASP table during the state convention.

- Invite your state delegate to come and speak at a meeting or to be involved with an event on your campus.

If you’re not sure who the NASP delegate for your state is, just e-mail Melinda at mwidlake@naspweb.org.
Monthly Student Leader Activities

Below, please find the activities that we request you complete on a month-by-month basis. Your Faculty Sponsor has also received this list so they can encourage and support your efforts.

Your NASP GSC Student Leader Coordinator, Brittany Zakszeski (Brittany.zakszeski@gmail.com) will email you a reminder on the first of each month about these activities in the Student Leader Update.

September

- Forward the Student Leader message to the students in your program with a personalized message explaining the benefits of NASP membership.
- Explain the benefits of NASP membership using the Student Leader PowerPoint presentation. This presentation is also available for download in the Student Leaders community.
- Hand out NASP membership application forms to students in your program (these were mailed to you, and they are also available for download in the Student Leaders community).
- Follow NASP on social media. We are on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram (@nasponline) and our hashtag is #NASPadvocates.

October

- Forward the Student Leader message to the students in your program, with a personalized message explaining the value in attending the NASP convention.
- Begin planning and promoting a School Psychology Awareness Week activity (see pages 5–6 for ideas).
- Participate in the School Psychology Awareness Week Twitter chat to assist with your planning.
- Watch for the announcement and attend the Student Leader virtual meeting to better understand your role and how to make the most of your year as a NASP Student Leader.
- Visit the Student Leaders community and download the contact sheet for NASP State Delegates. Reach out to the delegate in your state and discuss ways to help spread the NASP message, if there is any way they can assist you in your role as Student Leader, or how you may be able to assist them in their duties.
- Post a picture or video on social media highlighting one of your program’s accomplishments. Tag @nasponline or use #NASPadvocates and you might see it featured on NASP’s social media accounts!

November

- Forward the Student Leader message to the students in your program with a personalized message explaining the value in attending the NASP convention.
- Continue promoting your School Psychology Awareness Week activity, and host the event!
- Tell us about your School Psychology Awareness Week activity by e-mailing students@naspweb.org with a description and photos of the event. You could even win an award for your efforts!

December
• Forward the Student Leader message to the students in your program.

• If you haven’t already done so, tell us about your School Psychology Awareness Week activity by e-mailing communications@naspweb.org a description and photos of the event.

• Upload a picture of yourself to your profile in the NASP Communities. To access your profile, log in to the NASP website, click Membership & Community > Communities, then click the “Profile” link under your name in the upper right-hand corner of your screen.

• Good luck studying for finals and enjoy your break!

### January

• Forward the Student Leader message to the students in your program.

• Use the NASP member directory to connect with your cohort and with possible future mentors. To do this, log in to the NASP website, click Membership & Community > Communities, then click the “Member Directory” link in the middle of the blue menu bar across the top of your screen.

### February

• Forward the Student Leader message to the students in your program, with a personalized message explaining the networking benefits of attending the NASP annual convention.

• Plan an advocacy activity and begin promoting it (see page 6 for an example idea).

• Post a picture or video on social media highlighting one of your program’s accomplishments. Tag @nasponline or use #NASPadvocates and you might see it featured on NASP’s social media accounts.

### March

• Forward the Student Leader message to the students in your program.

• Continue promoting your advocacy activity, and host the event!

• Reach out to your NASP state delegate to see if you may be able to assist with their spring state convention/meeting.

• Do a presentation on a career in school psychology to a psychology undergrad class. Resources to assist you in this presentation are available on the NASP website, or you can contact Loraine Tibbs at ltitbs@naspweb.org to request school psychology/NASP promo pieces.

• Tell us about your advocacy activity by e-mailing students@naspweb.org a description and photos of the event. You could win an award for your efforts!

### April

• Forward the Student Leader message to the students in your program, with a personalized message explaining the benefits of NASP membership.

• Tell us about your advocacy activity by e-mailing students@naspweb.org a description of the event, if you have not yet done so, and send information and a picture highlighting one of your program’s accomplishments. You might see your program’s accomplishment featured on NASP’s official social media accounts.

### May
• Forward the Student Leader message to the students in your program.

• Fill out the Student Leader Nomination Form to confirm if you will continue on as a Student Leader for the 2019–2020 academic year, or remind your Faculty Sponsor to fill out the form to nominate new Student Leaders.

• Ensure a smooth transition to the new Student Leader, if you will not be continuing. If possible, chat about your experience with the new Student Leader. If this is not possible, please provide the new Student Leader (or your Faculty Sponsor, if a new Student Leader has not yet been nominated) with any materials that may assist them in organizing the School Psychology Awareness Week and advocacy activities.

• Post a message in the NASP Graduate Student Community with a news article, blog post, or other information you have found that relates to the field.

June

• Forward the Student Leader message to the students in your program, with a personalized message explaining the benefits of NASP membership.

• If you have not yet done so, Fill out the Student Leader Nomination Form to confirm if you will continue on as a Student Leader for the 2019–2020 academic year, or remind your Faculty Sponsor to fill out the form to nominate new Student Leaders.

• Enjoy your summer!