

2021–2022

Student Leader Guide

Tips for Success



NASP 
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
School Psychologists

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Student Leader Responsibilities and Volunteer Opportunities

Below is an overview of your responsibilities for the year. If you are one of two Student Leaders in your program, make sure you are coordinating with each other, and with your Faculty Sponsor, about how best to cover these duties.

Sending Student Leader Updates to the Students in Your Program

Malena Nygaard, the Student Leader Coordinator on the Graduate Student Committee, will send you a Student Leader Update towards the beginning of every month. The top of the email contains information and action steps for you as the Student Leader, and we ask that you forward the bottom of the email to the students in your program.

Organizing Activities for National School Psychology Week in November

National School Psychology Week will be November 8–12, 2021. The theme is “Let’s Get In GEAR.” As the Student Leader, you are encouraged to lead efforts in your program to plan activities for the week. It is possible that these activities look different because of COVID-19. In-person activities may include displaying posters around campus, setting up a booth on campus or at a high school career fair to distribute brochures about school psychology, and more. We encourage you to share your planning efforts and your celebrations on social media so we can repost them for others to see. See pages 5 and 6 for more ideas.

After the event is over, we’ll announce instructions about submitting your activities for a chance to be recognized or win a prize.

Organizing Professional and Legislative Advocacy Efforts

There are plenty of opportunities to engage in ongoing professional and legislative advocacy efforts. NASP’s advocacy team will often alert members to opportunities via *NASP in Brief* and social media, and you can use the Advocacy Action Center to email or call your local elected officials using prewritten letters about key issues affecting the profession.

Besides national advocacy outreach, you can participate in professional advocacy at the local level by continuing some of the same efforts you did during National School Psychology Week all year—setting up booths or offering to speak to students about school psychology as a profession and distributing brochures at career fairs.

Contributing to Articles and Fact Sheets for Graduate Students

Student Leaders are invited to contribute to the [Student Connections](#) column in *Communiqué*, where you can share your experience on a number of topics related to being a school psychology graduate student. See past articles as examples. Contact Rachel Wiegand (rwiegand@chapman.edu), Publications Coordinator on the Graduate Student Committee, with your interest in writing or with ideas for column content.

You may also see a call for volunteers to help update or revise fact sheets for graduate students. These requests are often posted in the Student Leaders online community. If writing or editing is something you’re passionate about, consider getting involved in this process.

Serving on the Graduate Student Committee

If you have thoroughly enjoyed your time as a Student Leader and want to get even more involved, the Graduate Student Committee often puts out a call for new committee members in the spring, with terms beginning on July 1. Consider applying for a position! Details are often announced in *Student News* and the Graduate Students online community as well as the [Volunteer Leadership Openings](#) webpage.

Communities for Student Leaders and All Student Members

There are two online communities just for you.

The [Student Leaders Community](#) is specific to the Student Leader Program and is a place where you can find opportunities to get more involved as a Student Leader or ask questions about things like planning for National School Psychology Week, planning advocacy activities, or otherwise making the most of your time as a Student Leader.

The [Graduate Students](#) community is for all NASP student members. This is a great place to discuss preparing for practice, finding an internship, choosing an area of specialization or work setting, and more.

You are automatically enrolled in the Student Leaders community, but you will need to actively sign up for the Graduate Students community.

There are also 30+ online Interest Groups open to all members, as well as the NASP Member Exchange, our most active community. If you are a student member, you're automatically enrolled in the NASP Member Exchange, but you can also enroll in any of the other groups that interest you as well. If you have questions about accessing or using the communities, please contact communities@naspweb.org.

Other Opportunities for Student Leaders

As a Student Leader, you are encouraged to:

- **Educate the students in your program about the benefits of NASP membership.** Share how you have personally benefited as a result of your NASP membership and hand out the flyers included in your welcome packet.
- **Share information about becoming a Nationally Certified School Psychologist (NCSP).** Encourage your peers to apply for the NCSP upon graduation at a special student member rate. The application for graduates of NASP-approved programs is now online.
- **Encourage participation in NASP's [Mentorship Program](#).** Student members can search available mentors based on a variety of criteria and select a mentor that best meets their needs.
- **Share your program happenings on social media.** Tag @nasponline on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter so we can repost your activities and cheer you on. Show us how you're promoting the profession, engaging in advocacy, and participating in National School Psychology Week.
- **Join your state association.** Connect with practicing school psychologists and graduate students in your [state](#) by becoming a member of your state association. This is a great place to find others passionate about issues relevant to your state and even more opportunities to get involved with the profession.

Celebrating National School Psychology Week

Developing National School Psychology Week activities for your program is a chance to show your pride for the profession and introduce others to school psychology. Visit the website for this year's suggested activities and related resources. Be sure to share your planning efforts on social media and tag us @nasponline so we can see!

- **Display the National School Psychology Week poster.** The poster will be enclosed in the October issue of *Communiqué*. Hang it in a prominent bulletin board to let students in related departments know about the profession or set up a booth for the week and display it there.
- **Distribute brochures and infographics on school psychology.** Distribute "Who are School Psychologists?" brochures at your local high schools, around your college 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 also has a companion infographic, which you can print or [share on social media](#).
- **Show appreciation to your professors and practicing school psychologists.** Say thank you with gift cards to coffee shops, lunches and other get-togethers, thank you notes, 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.

Plan a Spring Advocacy Event

Professional and legislative advocacy are critical to protecting the field of school psychology, our roles in schools, and to providing children, youth, and families access to comprehensive school psychological services. It is always a good time to engage in advocacy! An example of a spring advocacy event is organizing a day for you and your fellow students to participate in a "virtual advocacy day." You can:

- Visit the [NASP Advocacy Action Center](#) 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](#) with Government and Professional Relations Committee member Peter Faustino for quick tips on effective outreach.
- Tweet your elected officials and include the #NASPadvocates hashtag.
- Follow [Policy Matters](#), 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 level. And listen to episodes from the [Policy Matters podcast series](#), launched last year, to hear from advocacy leaders in the profession.

Monthly Student Leader Activities

Below, please find the activities to complete on a monthly basis. Your Faculty Sponsor also received a copy of this list so they can encourage and support your efforts. Malena Nygaard, the Student Leader Coordinator on the Graduate Student Committee, will email you the Student Leader Update each month.

September

- Attend the Student Leader Orientation Webinar on Thursday, September 16, at 7:30 p.m. EDT for an overview of your role and to hear from past Student Leadership Champions about ways to engage with other students in your program.
- Forward the bottom portion of the Student Leader Update to the students in your program with a personalized message explaining the benefits of NASP membership and distribute membership flyers to interested students.
- Update your [NASP member profile](#) and [demographic information](#) and upload a profile picture in the NASP Communities. To access your Communities 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.
- Follow @nasponline on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram and tag us to share your program’s activities.

October

- Forward the bottom portion of the Student Leader Update to the students in your program.
- Begin planning for National School Psychology Week (see [pages 5–6](#) for ideas).
- Post a picture or video on social media highlighting one of your program’s accomplishments. Tag @nasponline so we can repost or retweet it on Instagram or Twitter.

November

- Forward the bottom portion of the Student Leader Update to the students in your program.
- Continue promoting National School Psychology Week and host your local event.

December

- Forward the bottom portion of the Student Leader Update to the students in your program.

Good luck studying for finals and enjoy your break!

January

- Forward the bottom portion of the Student Leader Update to the students in your program.
- Use the [NASP Mentorship Program](#) to locate a potential mentor for the remainder of the school year, particularly if you’re graduating or applying for an internship and need career guidance.

February

- Forward the bottom portion of the Student Leader Update to the students in your program.
- 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 so we can repost or retweet it.

March

- Forward the bottom portion of the Student Leader Update to the students in your program.
- Continue promoting your advocacy activity and host the event.
- Ask faculty in your psychology department if you can present to an undergraduate class about a career in school psychology. Resources to assist you in this presentation are available on the [NASP website](#).

April

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

May

- Forward the bottom portion of the Student Leader Update to the students in your program.
- Consider nominating your Faculty Sponsor for the Faculty Sponsor Champion, or a fellow graduate student for the Student Leadership Champion award.
- Determine if you will continue as a Student Leader for the 2022–2023 academic year or remind your Faculty Sponsor to fill out the form to nominate new Student Leaders.
- If you aren't continuing as a Student Leader, ensure a smooth transition by chatting with the new Student Leader about your experience and your activities. Provide them with any materials that may assist them in organizing National School Psychology Week and advocacy activities.

June

- Forward the bottom portion of the Student Leader Update to the students in your program, with a personalized message explaining the benefits of NASP membership. A strong NASP membership strengthens our collective voice, which matters with getting school psychologists what they need to help children thrive.
- If you have not yet done so, let us know if you will continue as a Student Leader for the 2022–2023 academic year, or remind your Faculty Sponsor to fill out the form to nominate new Student Leaders.

Enjoy your summer!