

## National Student Leadership Week

National Student Leadership Week takes place from April 24 to April 30.

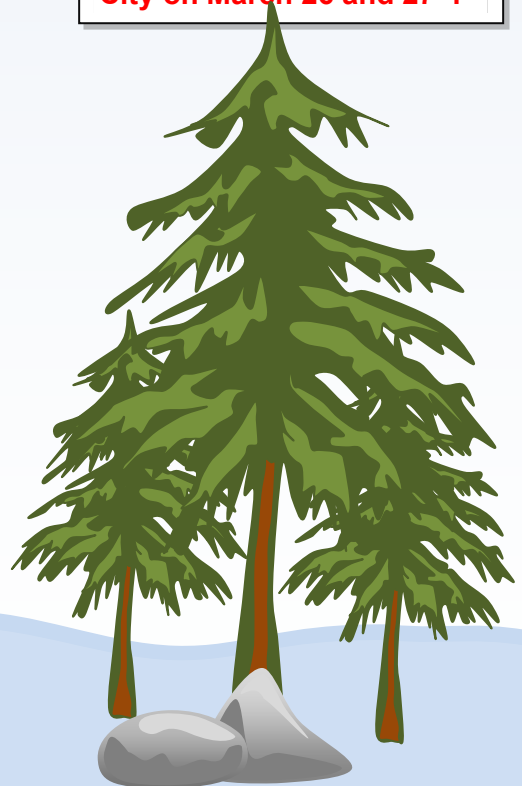
### **Celebrate Student Leaders**

Celebrating student leaders is a powerful expression of gratitude and recognition for their unwavering dedication, passion, and drive in making a difference within your school, community, and the world.

National Student Leadership Week began more than 50 years ago

**Here are some ideas to show your student leaders that their efforts and impact are valued and appreciated:**

**Hello everyone! Hoping everyone has recovered from SDSCA Convention and Easter Holiday break!! It was a couple busy weeks! It was so awesome to see so many schools here in Rapid City. Thanks again for making the effort to travel west and share in this awesome event! I'm so excited to start working with our new board members and share their ideas and plans for SDSCA 2024 convention in Rapid City on March 26 and 27<sup>th</sup>!**



**Student Leader Appreciation Event.** Recognize all student leaders who are involved in any leadership in your school; clubs, teams, etc. Schedule an awards ceremony, banquet, luncheon, or breakfast, and invite your principal, superintendent, school board, and even local elected officials or local celebrities to honor your students and those who support them.

**Morning announcements.** Make a school-wide announcement about NSLW and the importance of student leadership for making positive change. Consider featuring one or more of your student leaders each day of NSLW.

**Student newspaper.** Collaborate with a school publication to publish an article that publicizes NSLW and celebrates the accomplishments of your student leaders.

**Alumni event.** Invite program alumni to address your group, focusing on the things they learned from being involved as student leaders in middle level or high school that they find useful now in their careers.

**Host an NSLW assembly.** A successful National Student Leadership Week (NSLW) assembly is a great launching pad for an engaging and exciting celebration. Your assembly can communicate the goals and spirit of NSLW and motivate the entire student body and staff to join forces in service with you and student leaders. Here's a checklist to help you plan and hold a meaningful NSLW assembly.

**Student poll.** Create and distribute a poll asking the student body the most important problem facing the community and seek their suggestions to solve it. Based on the results, draft a proposal for a year-long student-led volunteer project addressing the most popular issue.

**Class competitions.** Host competitions to collect donations or raise charitable funds, with the winning class earning a special treat.

**School media coverage.** Plan NSLW event coverage in the school newspaper, yearbook, and school social media posts. Mix inspirational quotes with activity posts/tweets. Our social media page provides image assets you can save and use on your social media channels. Make sure you include #NSLW23 in each post!

**Leadership wall.** Create a "wall of leadership" where student leaders begin posting their acts of leadership and challenge their fellow students to do the same.

**Do a service project.** When considering how your chapter or council will commemorate the week, get inspired by [browsing more than 11,000 projects and activities](#) in our data base completed by Honor Society chapters and student councils around the world.

**Student mentorship.** Send your student leaders to visit a younger group of students in your middle level or elementary school. The leadership of your students could inspire the next class to do great things!

**Volunteer hour/donation matching.** Work with a local company or organization and ask them to match the number of service hours or donations that your students are able to raise during NSLW!

### 30 REASONS TO RECOGNIZE

Need some help coming up with different reasons to recognize your members?

This list should stimulate some ideas.

1. Teambuilding ability
2. Creative ideas
3. Cheerful attitude
4. Willingness to pitch in
5. "Above and beyond" effort
6. Surpassing goals
7. Punctuality or being early
8. Ability to solve problems
9. Consistent quality work
10. Being budget conscious
11. Strong leadership
12. Having a clear vision for the group
13. Perseverance
14. Being fast and efficient
15. Setting a good example
16. Strong commitment to the group
17. Tackling a challenge
18. Seizing an opportunity
19. Overcoming obstacles
20. Thinking ahead
21. Excellent time management
22. Motivating others
23. Inspiring speaker
24. Making tough choices
25. Ethical behavior
26. Accepting responsibility
27. Stellar attendance
28. Conflict resolution skills
29. Being the glue that holds everyone together
30. Outstanding spirit

**INEXPENSIVE TRINKETS.** The dollar stores, candy racks, and toy catalogues are indispensable allies in the hunt for clever ways to recognize

members. Try some of the following ideas, or use this list as a springboard to brainstorm ideas of your own:

- "You Crushed It!" note attached to a can of orange Crush.
- A small mirror with the note, "You are looking at a very special person."
- Nestle Crunch Bars with the note, "Thanks for your help at crunch time" or "You always come through in a crunch."
- "You're a key piece on our team" attached to a jigsaw puzzle.
- A bag of Hershey kisses and hugs with the note "For all you do, these hugs and kisses are for you."
- "There are so many Riesens to thank you" with a bag of Riesens candy.
- "I like the way you Roll" with Rollos or a roll of Lifesavers attached.
- "You always blow us away!" with a packet of bubble gum.

- “Thanks for always putting your best foot forward” with some Fruit by the Foot.
- “We could BEARly have made it without you” with a packet of Gummy bears or bear-shaped cookies.
- “You’re one smart COOKIE” with a plate or bag of cookies.
- “When help is needed, you’re always willing to CHIP in” attached to a bag of chips or chocolate chip cookies.
- “You’ve been a LIFESAVER!” with a package of Lifesaver candies.
- A Nature’s Harvest bar with the note “Thank you for helping our organization harvest its potential.”
- Goldfish crackers with a note that the member “o’fish’ally helped make this the best year ever!”
- “You are ‘extra’ special” tag with a pack of Extra gum.