



NASSP Student Programs Service Report

**Student Leaders
Making a Difference**

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NASSP Student Programs

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 **NASSP**[™]
National Association
of Secondary School Principals

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Student Leaders Making a Difference

During the 2014–15 school year, students in the nation’s secondary schools were making a difference in their schools and communities in ways that dramatically support the value of student activities and demonstrate the significant level of service these students provide. Data from the annual adviser surveys conducted by the National Honor Society (NHS), National Junior Honor Society (NJHS), and the National Association of Student Councils (NASC)—three of the outstanding student leadership organizations founded and administered by the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP)—support this conclusion.

In 2015, more than 2,300 Honor Society and student council advisers responded to the annual online surveys. What follows is a summary of the service activities of these groups.

Giving to Charity. Honor Society chapters and student councils undertook a variety of charitable fundraising projects, displaying the generous spirit of young people. The 135 student council advisers reported raising \$558,367 during the last school year. Honor Society advisers, with 1,384 respondents, reported collecting \$2,292,280. Combined, a total of more than \$2.8 million in charitable giving was reported. The top recipients of these funds included the American Cancer Society and other cancer-related charities, food banks and soup kitchens, the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, the American Red Cross, Make-A-Wish Foundation, Special Olympics, and children’s hospitals including St. Jude’s Children’s Research Hospital. Chapters and councils also raised money for local schools and scholarship funds.

Hours of Service. Councils and chapters annually engage in a great variety of service projects at school and in their communities. NASC advisers reported their members contributing 268,063 hours of service, equating to more than 1,750 hours per council responding. NHS and NJHS chapters reported 2,308,772 hours of service or 1,161 hours per chapter. Using the current federal minimum hourly wage (\$7.25) as a value for each of these reported service hours, the value of the more than 2.5 million hours of service equates to more than \$18 million in service contributions by student members of these three national student organizations.

Food, Blood, and Spirit. Advisers were asked for details on projects involving food and blood donations at their schools. Honor Society chapters reported collecting, on average, more than 1,110 pounds of food each; student councils averaged 2,506 pounds. Extrapolated out to the national membership, this would indicate chapters and councils collecting nearly 19 million pounds of food each year. More than 16 percent of Honor Society chapters and nearly

Student Programs By The Numbers



1.9 MILLION
HONOR SOCIETY AND
STUDENT COUNCIL MEMBERS

34,343
HONOR SOCIETY CHAPTERS
AND STUDENT COUNCILS

Student Giving By The Numbers



**LOCALLY, NASC,
NHS, AND NJHS**
CONTRIBUTE AN AVERAGE OF
\$27,000
THROUGH SERVICE PROJECTS.



\$2.8 MILLION
REPORTED CHARITABLE GIVING BY
HONOR SOCIETIES AND STUDENT COUNCILS

30 percent of student councils reported conducting a blood drive, collecting an average of 88 pints of blood per chapter and 120 pints per council. If expanded out to the total memberships nationwide, this figure translates into potential annual collections of nearly 633,000 pints of blood donated by student leaders and faculty of schools around the nation.

The Honor Society advisers were also asked how many hours their students contributed toward improving school climate and school spirit-building activities. This year, they reported more than 507,332 total hours dedicated to school improvement or an average of more than 300 hours per chapter. “There is no doubt that these activities went a long way toward improving school climate and, when combined with the even larger volume of service activities reported this year, provided multiple opportunities for student growth and leadership development in schools,” said Jonathan Mathis, director of National Honor Societies.

National Impact. If these results are typical of student councils and Honor Societies throughout the

country, these three student organizations, with a combined membership of 34,343 student groups representing more than 1.9 million high school and middle level youth, have the *potential* of raising more than 365 million dollars each year through direct contributions and hours of service. This figure, more than a third of a *billion* dollars, does not take into account the dozens of additional national school-based student organizations whose members also dedicate their time and effort each year to service projects.

Local Impact. At the local level, it can be calculated that schools with active NASC, NHS, or NJHS organizations on campus contributed an average of nearly \$27,000 to each of their schools and communities through service projects during the 2014–15 school year. “Principals and school boards can be proud of the great work being accomplished by their student leaders. Activity advisers, whose efforts in managing these groups and their accomplishments, are to be commended for their leadership roles in these projects. We can all be proud of this aspect of student achievement taking place in our schools every year,” said JoAnn Bartoletti, NASSP executive director.

“Each year, I am amazed at the amount of time and service that student leaders give to others,” said NASSP Director of Student Programs Ann Postlewaite. “The hours of service and dollars and items collected for communities around the world always are impressive evidence of the commitment of students to improving the world around them.” Student leaders, with the support of their advisers and principals, are making a difference for so many—and they are challenging others to make a difference as well. I commend student leaders for their hard work and caring.”

In addition to the impact on schools and communities, the young people involved in these many and varied service activities benefit personally from participation. The hard work, planning, and perseverance guided by a sense of caring and a commitment to assisting others help to build new skills and values in each young person engaged in service.

The National Honor Society, National Junior Honor Society, and the National Association of Student Councils are programs of NASSP (the National Association of Secondary School Principals). For more information, visit www.nhs.us, www.njhs.us, www.nasc.us, and www.nassp.org.

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