

2004 Illinois Directors of Student Activities Convention
"BEST OF THE BEST"
Survey Results

TEACHER PENNY WAR; Chris Wilbur; Hinsdale Central H.S.; (630) 570-8548

A modified penny war. Instead of jars representing classes, they represent teachers. The teacher with the most money must wear a costume the Friday of Homecoming, and must go to the pep rally in fall dress

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY; Mary Zaleksi; Hinsdale South H.S.; (630) 468-4401

Sleep-in-a-box is a fundraiser to raise funds and awareness. Students raise funds to have the privilege of participating. We made a \$100 minimum this year with about 35 students participating, and we raised over \$5000! Students make "houses" out of boxes in the school courtyard. We make a "sack lunch" for dinner. Bring in a guest speaker (when possible). Lights out @ midnight. Clean up @ 6:30 am - 7:00 am. Students get to experience a night of "homelessness" to better understand the need for affordable, safe housing.

CHRISTMAS SHOPPING BABYSITTING; Diane Miller; TF North H.S.; (708) 585-1060

Near Christmastime, parents & community members are invited to drop off their children (ages 2-12) at the school while parents take the opportunity to do their Holiday shopping, unencumbered by their small children. We ask for \$5.00/child and provide safety, entertainment, and healthy snacks (donated) between the hours of 6 pm - 9pm. It has worked extremely well; low(no) overhead; parents are very appreciative & often donate more than the requested fee.

CRUSH CANS; Sandy Golas; Warren Township H.S.; (847) 599-4360

Students may buy a can of "crush" pop with a note for \$1 to be picked up by the recipient during his/her lunch period. The idea is that a student can buy one for someone they have a crush on, but many are purchased for their friends or even teachers. This event can be held at any time but works well around Valentie's Day or as major dances approach.

FESTIVE PINES; Jackie Sullivan/T. Ter Haar; V.J. Andrew H.S.; (708) 342-5800

Student council sponsors a "Festive Pines" celebration. We invite all the clubs and different groups within the school to sponsor and decorate a tree. Their donations support a different charity, chosen each year by council. On a designated day after school, we decorate the artificial pine trees and feast on pizza. The trees remain in the commons area up until winter break, creating a festive holiday spirit for the entire school to enjoy. It's also a wonderful opportunity for clubs to showcase their organization.

ECO PHONES; Jerry Staniszewski; Hinsdale Central H.S.; (630) 570-8440

Service project...we collect old/used cell phones to be refurbished and used for senior citizens.

MOVIES IN THE PARK; Renee Ebel; Minooka Community H.S.; (815) 467-2140

Outdoor movie sponsored by student council. Other student organizations set up booths to sell popcorn, drinks, baked goods, ect. Movie shown was Goonies - community event at the community park.

PIE THROWING FUNDRAISER; Joe Stephan; TF North H.S.; (708) 585-7034

Fundraiser for Yearbook...teachers, administrators, and one student sit at a booth during the homecoming football game. Students buy mini-pumpkin pies for \$1 or 3 for \$2. Students throw pies and teachers get messy. Yearbook makes money. Everyone wins!

SILENT AUCTION; Erin Fasbender; St. Charles North H.S.; (630) 443-3370

As a prom fundraiser last year we held a silent auction from donations given to us by parents and community members. We had theme baskets that each student on the planning team had to donate (ranging from knitting baskets to candy or coffee baskets) and then we requested items from local businesses (staying away from gift certificates because those have definite economic values)as well. We also asked local professional sports teams for donations of tickets to events (which they willingly gave) and asked parents with specific skills to make coupons for their services (flight lessons - piano lessons - swimming lessons, etc...). We put all the items on table in a hallway with a bid sheet and then for a hour one night, (specifically a night connected with another event like a band concert) we allowed bids. We raised around \$2000 in that one hour. It was amazing!

SENIORS PROM; Melissa Phillipp; Warren Township H.S.; (847) 599-4699

Students coordinated an afternoon at the local retirement home. The home provided snacks and a small three-piece band. The students decorated the common room and titled the event as the "Seniors Prom". The kids danced with the residents and enjoyed chatting. The afternoon was highlighted with the crowing of a king & queen.

KEY CLUB; Matthew Swedko; Hinsdale South H.S.; (630) 468-4286

Key club and National Honor Society work together to host our annual food drive. We work two months prior to the early December week to coordinate the club's responsibilities. Some of those include getting raffle prizes, donations from businesses, and all faculty and staff participation. We have raised over 20,000 pounds for several years. Last year, we broke our school record with a total of 33,000 pounds of food. The food is distributed to 3 local food pantries with the help of all faculty and several 100 students. It really is a great way to get our school community involved and is a very worthwhile activity for the club's involved.

TRICK OR SOUP; Michele Brown; Waubonsie Valley H.S.; (630) 375-3313

Various clubs and Student Council go out into the community around Halloween. They go door to door collecting canned good for Hessed House Food Pantry. The event brings numerous school organizations together and serves as a kickoff for the Student Council canned food drive.

SEASON OF GIVING; L. Harris, B. Libka, D. Vickers, M. Turner, M. Lucas-Duckins; Proviso East H.S.; (708) 202-1758
November & December coordinated giving by a variety of organizations such as Interact club, Graduating Classes and Student Council. Students work together in collecting for winter coats, canned goods, shoes, and toys. Collected goods are donated to local and international Philanthropic Organizations.

OPEN MIC LUNCH; Lyn Scolaro; Prospect H.S.; (847) 718-5400
Students perform (sing, dance, stand-up, instrumental) during their lunch hour.

"GOOD NEWS FROM RICHMOND"; Jennifer Barrett; Richmond-Burton H.S.; (815) 678-7588
Since most of the correspondence sent to parents is more negative in nature, RBCHS set up a system where teachers sent postcards home to parents with "Good News from Richmond." Students are acknowledged for their acts of kindness and aptitude. The parents are very appreciative of the recognition.

PRAIRIE RESTORATION (ECOLOGY CLUB); Dawn Sasek; Oak Forest H.S.; (708) 687-0500
Our Ecology club has a plot of land at 167th & Central which they are responsible for maintaining. The students go out year round to cut shrubs, eradicate non-native paint species, etc. Lots of work!

In addition, the students travel together for ecologically fun times, such as:

- A. Canoe trip/backpacking (boundary waters)
- B. Camping - Indiana Dunes
- C. Camping/hiking - Starved Rock

Also, they just hosted a "workshop" after school where several live endangered animals were introduced and students were allowed to interact with them.

WINTERFEST; Mariba Woods; Bloom H.S.; (630) 755-1122

The first year held: Sunday, December 13th. All clubs participate by having a station at the school where they will sell various items, like cookies; ornaments, etc. Each club is responsible for decorating a themed three foot tree. (Which will be auctioned off). After the sales fair, the band will host their annual winter concert and after the concert there will be a small potluck luncheon.

MOVIE MADNESS NIGHT; Christie Sylvester; Prospect H.S.; (847) 718-5322

This is our first year hosting a movie for the school, but we've worked hard to make it successful. Prior to the movie, we created a slideshow to run, similar to what they do in the local movie theaters. We solicited from local businesses and ran ads in the slideshow, as well as movie trivia and movie quotes promoting after school activities. Just before the movie starts we will show a student made film (previewed in advance) that will get the crowd excited.

Since our movie coincides with our annual school food drive, the price of admission is two cans of food plus one dollar to cover expenses. The movie will be shown in our field house, and students will sit on the floor, but we're allowing them to bring a blanket to be comfortable. We will be selling concessions, and 100% of the profits will go towards one of our graduates who has a brain tumor and we're raising money for medical expenses. Our public performance rights are coming from movie licensing but Criterion USA also sells public performance rights to movies for groups. We're hoping this is successful and we're hoping to offer it every year, if not again in the spring.

PENNIES FOR POINTS; Tom Witting; Reavis High School; (708) 599-7200

"Pennies for Points" is a simple community service project. As part of our Homecoming Spirit Stick competition, jars representing each class are put in the cafeteria, students fill jars to earn points for their class. Each penny earns spirit points as part of "Pride in community". Money is donated to local homeless shelter.

BATTLE OF THE CLASSES; Rob Paradise; T F North H.S.; (708) 585-1028

This is a class completion to raise spirit. Each month student council plans an activity that is used for points at the end of the year the class with the most points wins a class picnic.

HOMECOMING HALL DECORATING; Kelly Keating; East Aurora H.S.; (630) 299-2351

As part of the Homecoming week competition, each class decorates a hall in the school. Students are supervised by class sponsors and all decorating occurs after school. Some supplies are given to each class by the Student Council. On Thursday of Homecoming week, a faculty panel judges the halls based on school spirit, creativity, and correlation to HC theme. Winner is announced at pep assembly and points are awarded for overall class competition. Halls are decorated for the week to promote class and school spirit.

COUGAR CLOSET; Megan Malcolm; Plainfield South H.S.; (815) 439-5555

Each January we advertise in the school and local newspaper asking individuals to donate gently used prom dresses (you wear it only once anyway). In February we then hold the "Cougar Closet" where students can purchase the dresses for \$20. Prom costs so much in the long run, this gives students of lower economic means a chance to enjoy prom as well.

HURRICANDY; Karen Allaire; BGHS; (630) 718-4044

We filled goodie bags with gift certificates & candy. Sold them for \$2

DEAN'S WITH DONUTS; Jeff Scull; East Aurora H.S.; (630) 299-8090

Throughout the year teachers nominate their 1st or 2nd period class for outstanding attendance or behavior, on Friday the class selected is rewarded with donuts & juice served by the deans.

PACK THE PLACE SPIRIT WEEK; Lesa Friedrich; Highland Park H.S.; (224) 765-2370

Each year HPHS hosts Pack the Place for all winter athletic events. During the week we host lunchtime activities related to the athletic events. Dunk Tank = swimming/diving; limbo contest = gymnastics; arm wrestling contest = wrestling; rent pop-a-shot = girls & boys basketball. In addition student dress up for the spirit day. By hosting these activities many more students become involved in celebrating our GIANT Pride.

"SUPER JOCS" VS "STUDENT JOCS"; Belinda Traywick; Proviso West H.S.; (708) 202-6323

Can be used right before Christmas, Spring or Fall break.

1. Contact faculty & administrators to play a game (basketball, football, baseball, volleyball)
2. Construct a team of student 1 or 2 students from each sport.
3. Have them to play a game with adjusted game time with real officials
4. Provide t-shirts for staff and student teams
5. You can have the game during an all school assembly. Put up pictures of famous jocs but use faculty members.

Students and staff enjoyed themselves and they ask when is the next joc games.

SCHOOL STORE; Brad Smith; East Aurora H.S.; (630) 299-2363

We have a school store. It is in one location so students will know its location. It is open before and after school. We sell a variety of snacks, pop, and water. We also sell some school supplies. We sell everything for .50 or less. The store is operated by the Jr. Class Council (other class councils are starting their own stores in other locations in the high school). This activity requires only a few minutes of the student's time either before or after school (usually 10-15 minutes) and brings in a steady income for the students.

HALLOWEEN HAPPENING; Beth Neville/Don Stadt; Neuqua Valley H.S.; (630) 428-6188

The Sophomore Class Council has a Halloween festival for kids in the district (K-4) as a fundraiser and community event. The students turn classrooms into haunted houses and they have several games for kids to play in the locker banks. (Bean bags, ring toss, fortune teller, etc.) There is a costume parade and several prizes are awarded. The parents enjoy coming and showing off their child's costume! The charge is \$5 per child, and they all leave with gift bags full of candy and prizes.

FORGOTTEN TEENS PROJECT; Dick Schindel; East Aurora H.S.; (630) 299-8061

The purpose of this project is to raise money to buy gifts at the holiday season for those students from need families who will not be able to purchase gifts for their children. The age group is freshmen - senior, names are secured from counselors, social workers and any faculty members. Money is raised by selling Otis coolies at penn's and parents conference, selling paper stars fro \$1 and taking up a collection in our 2nd hour classes. Gifts are purchased and then distributed by the counselors. Great results!

PROM WEAR; Denina Porter; Proviso West H.S.; (708) 202-6595

During all lunch periods, the students could watch a prom wardrobe show. The students had to purchase a ticket prior to that day from the class of 2004 members. Students who were members of class of 2004 showed off different outfits, which could be worn to prom 2004.

CLASS SPONSOR; Natalie Carlson; Lyons Township

Lawn signs that say "LTHS Grad" makes HUGE money. Your market is huge (senior families) instead of limited to a team and you can preorder to save prepaid costs.

GIVING TREE; Cindy McCraw; T.F. North H.S.; (708) 585-1086

For 10 years the Sophomore Board has collected gifts for Thornton Township at Christmas. Each year the students have given 80-100 gifts to this cause.

Each student takes about 5 tags and give them to parents, community members, teachers, and other students. We have had entire classes pitch in and "adopt" a child (one class bought them coats and toys).

Every year, there are teachers and students that come looking for gift tags long before the activity even begins. J

CULTURAL AWARENESS; Carius Burger; Palatine H.S.; (847) 755-1600

Cultural awarenss club to foster cultural diversity and understanding and respect.

GAME DAY; Kathy Sheshull; Neuqua Valley H.S.; (630) 428-6414

Every Friday, game day, I play our fight song and blow bubbles (bubble machine) during passing periods during the lunch periods. We, the counselors, stand in the hallway and wave poms while the bubbles are blowing & song is playing. It puts a smile on everyone's face! J Even our dean!

COLDSTONE PROM FUNDRAISER; Shannon Mulder; St. Charles North H.S.; (630) 443-3370

We work with Coldstone Creamery to fundraise for prom. At school we hand out tickets and then from 6-9 pm anybody who buys ice cream a portion of the proceeds goes to us. Kids are trained and then work during the fundraiser, making ice cream and singing songs. They have a blast!

WISHING TREE; Katherine Griffis; PHS; (847) 755-1600

Clubs adopt needy families from area & buy Christmas gifts. All school event called Wishing Tree.

DANCE A THON; Marion Marcin; Buffalo Grove H.S.

Kids get pledges similar to relay for life. Teams dance for 5-7 hours to fundraise for drug rehab.

HORNET 101; Nancy Betker; Hinsdale South H.S.; (630) 468-4511

A new freshman program for all 500 freshman. Upper classmen meet during lunch times with small groups over lunches to review curriculum toward smooth transition to high school.

CLASS SPONSOR; Lisa Plichta/Kris Costopoulos; Lyons Township H.S.

Parent/teacher conference sales: Our class board members earned a lot of money during our 2 nights on parent/teacher conferences by selling class T-shirts (great Christmas presents) and care packages for final exam week. The success was very encouraging for the kids!

PRESIDENT'S BREAKFAST; Chris Repa; Oaklawn Community H.S.; (708) 203-2254

Each month, the student council sponsors a "before school" President's Breakfast. The president of each club/activity/organization at the high school attends a 30-45 minute morning breakfast to highlight club accomplishments and most importantly to share ideas and best practices between different organizations. A theme is selected by the group, a month in advance, and each president comes to the breakfast with information about how the theme relates to their organization. It's a great way to help new club leaders find their way and give positive feedback to the group as a whole.

MUSTANG DECATHALON; Sara Flanigan; Mundelein H.S.; (847) 949-2200

In the style of "Revenge of the Nerds", the Mustang Decathlon is a 10 event team competition. Events include tug-a-war, scooter races, belch contest, tricycle race, boat race (in the pool), etc. Students sign up in teams of 10 (5 girls & 5 boys). Entry fee is \$20 per team. We invite conference schools as well as teachers and parents to participate. Awards are given for each event as well as the overall winner.

HOMECOMING T-SHIRT DESIGN CONTEST; Maria Zurliene; Mater Dei Catholic H.S.; (618) 526-7216

We hold a t-shirt design contest before homecoming. The winning design is then printed on all the shirts and each class has a different color shirt. We then have a t-shirt day when all students wear their homecoming t-shirt. (We have requirements for the shirt)

The designs that do not win are then blown up as posters and used to decorate the hallways.

TASTE OF PROVISO; Peggy Reynolds; Proviso West H.S.; (630) 510-8744

All clubs & organizations participate by selling some type of food/drink item. This gives clubs & organizations the opportunity to show off their club & reach potential members. This also gives the clubs a great fundraising opportunity.

THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE; Nicholas Bretz; T F North H.S.; (708) 585-1157

We set up barrels with the class name on the barrel and students place canned goods and non-perishable items in their particular class. The class barrel w/ the most items win the battle of the class points. At the end of the year the class with the most points gets to get out of their 7th period class and have a small pizza party.

ALTERNATIVE HOMECOMING DINNER; Amy Macechko; St. Charles North H.S.; (630) 587-7111

The NHS students hosted a charity dinner prior to the Homecoming dance so all students had the opportunity to dine with their friends before the dance. Parents and staff were the servers for the evening and the dinner was catered by Olive Garden for \$20 student received multiple course dinner and all the money was sent to the AIDS in Africa initiative via World Vision

MADMAN VOLLEYBALL; Jeff Siegal; Buffalo Grove H.S.; (847) 718-4000

Juniors vs. seniors in volleyball. Guy/Girl teams. Have 300 kids participate in round robin tournament.

COMFORT CUPS; Tracy Sukalo; Victor J. Andrew H.S.; (630) 342-5800

A few weeks before final weeks we sell comfort cups in the cafeteria during lunch periods. We sell them for \$3.50 and they are made up of items which can help the student during finals week: pencils, erasers, hot chocolate mix, stress ball, granola bar, smarties, mints, etc. We assemble the cups and distribute them to the students before finals begin. We typically make about \$300.

"GOT SPIRIT"; Ruth Brady and Tara Pombert; Bradley-Bourbonnais Community H.S.; (815) 937-3707

After learning of the idea of "Got Spirit" as a best of the best ideas; we refined it to increase student and staff school spirit. As a n incentive, every Friday, 10 student lockers are "tagged" with a "Got Spirit" sticker. If they are wearing school colors they receive a "Got Spirit" polo shirt. The "Got Spirit" emblem is a white milk carton on a red shirt.

PLANTING HOPE; Kelly Dostal; Woodstock H.S.; (815) 338-4370

\$1 per bulb planted in the fall by local clubs.

COIN WAR; Amy Simler; Downers Grove South H.S.; (630) 795-8816

The coin war was organized by the Direct Action Club and paired with class competition during spirit week. Coins were collected during lunches and throughout the week in color coded containers (F,S,J,Sr, Staff). Students could watch their contributions increase in a display case. In this case the classes were competing for who could adopt the most children through Humanitarian Society. Collectively we adopted 40 children.

IRISH-AMERICAN CLUB; Nora Ryan; J. F. Kennedy H.S.; (773) 779-3857

Our group tries to reach out and work toward helping other Irish groups. The "Shamrock Shuffle" was our best activity.

"CAUGHT YOU"; Lindsey Slavin; Richmond-Burton Community H.S.; (815) 678-7547

There is a different word of the month, i.e. Encouragement, Patriotism, Respect. Teachers nominate students who illustrate these characteristics. All nominations are put together and one is randomly chosen. The student who is picked gets his/her name in the announcements and a "caught you" button that allows the student to be served first in the lunch line all week.