



[CHSAANow.com](http://CHSAANow.com)

# CHSAA Activities Newsletter

**ESPORTS**

**MUSIC**

**SPEECH & DEBATE**

**STUDENT LEADERSHIP**

**HALL OF FAME**

**SPORTING BEHAVIOR**

August 2025

The ACA Character at Camp Grant Program provides financial support, training, and technical assistance for selected day and overnight camps in the United States that are interested in starting, enhancing, expanding, or celebrating character development programs or projects. Wave 1 of this opportunity will provide funding in January 2026, a second wave will then take place to provide funding in January 2027.

Their Grant Application Portal is now open, with applications due (for Wave 1) by October 15, 2025. For much more information - including budgeting tools, program/project timeline templates, step-by-step guides, and links to "how to apply" webinars and office hours, please visit the ACA Character at Camp Grant Program website:

[Website](#)



## Changing the Game for Social and Emotional Learning



Social Cipher helps middle and high schools support neurodivergent students—especially those who are Autistic or have ADHD—by fostering belonging, self-regulation, and inclusion through story-driven video games, inclusive SEL curriculum, and educator tools.

[Social Cipher Website](#)

## The Pulse: Your Monthly Activities Connection



**“Stay in rhythm with The Pulse—monthly updates, Q&A, and key info for CHSAA Activities Directors.**

Stay connected and in the know with The Pulse - a 30-minute monthly Zoom for CHSAA Activities Directors, hosted by the Assistant Commissioner for Activities. Each session provides updates on everything from state championships and student conferences to guidance on CHSAA Bylaws and State Statutes. It's also a chance to get your questions answered and hear what's happening across our schools. Join us the first Thursday of every month at 8:00 AM. Click the link below to access the calendar dates and Zoom link.

[Zoom Meeting Link](#)

# Speech and Debate Coaches Conference

August 22–23, 2025 | Cherry Creek High School

On Friday, August 22, veteran coaches will welcome those new to speech and debate—or new to coaching in Colorado—for training on event-specific techniques and the ins and outs of running a team.

On Saturday, August 23, all coaches are invited to the Colorado Speech and Debate Conference for a day of professional development. Sessions include building parent and alumni networks, advocating for speech and debate with Kristina Getty (Fairview), and debate fundamentals with CHSAA/NSDA Hall of Fame Coach Marti Benham. Colorado coaches will also share expertise on interp, public speaking, philosophy, debate, inclusion, and more. Join us to learn, grow, and connect with our Colorado Coach Community!

[Register for the Conference](#)

## Work2BeWell Continues to Provide Resources to Colorado Schools



Work2BeWell (W2BW) is a mental health and wellness program focused on providing mental health resources and education for teens, parents, and educators. Our goal is to promote teen wellness across the country, and work to normalize the conversation about mental health and reduce the stigma that surrounds it.

Work2BeWell is committed to anti-racist work. We bring a diversity, equity and, inclusion lens to programming and are working to expand our resources for BIPOC teens. We are strategizing culture and language-specific resources for the future as we work to reduce mental health stigma and promote teen wellness.

[Work2BeWell Resources](#)



## Heat Illness

As performers strive for excellence with unwavering dedication, the threat of heat-related illnesses poses a significant concern, particularly amid the demanding schedules of practices and performances, intensified by rising temperatures in summer and autumn. This platform is tailored to provide invaluable insights, effective strategies, and essential resources aimed at ensuring the well-being of our high school musicians. Our goal is to mitigate health and safety risks, allowing them to pursue their artistic passions while maintaining optimal health and vitality.



[UNDERSTANDING HEAT ILLNESS](#)   [PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT](#)   [NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE RESOURCES](#)

## Why You Should Respond to Every Message You Get

In today's fast-paced school environment, timely communication is essential—and that includes responding to text messages and emails. As leaders, our responsiveness sets the tone for how we value collaboration, respect others' time, and keep our programs running smoothly. Whether it's a quick confirmation, an important update, or a time-sensitive question, a prompt reply helps build trust and keeps everyone informed and aligned. While we all juggle busy schedules, making time to respond—even briefly—shows professionalism and strengthens the culture of communication within our organizations and schools.

Leaders need to make this a priority because delayed or missed communication can create confusion, stall progress, and diminish confidence in our ability to lead. When we respond with consistency and intention, we model accountability, reinforce expectations, and ensure that those we serve—students, staff, and each other—feel seen and supported. Communication is not just a task; it's a reflection of our leadership.

# NFHS Learning Center (for Activities)



[NFHSLearn Website](#)

The NFHS Learning Center offers courses designed for Performing Arts teachers, Student Leadership advisers, Coaches, Administrators, and Parents. Here are just a few of the many courses the NFHS provides:

- Understanding Copyright and Compliance
- Music Directors and Adjudicators Membership
- Music Adjudication
- Implicit Bias
- Sportsmanship
- Protecting Students From Abuse
- Middle School Coaching
- Coaching Mental Wellness
- Adolescent Development: Centering Athlete Needs
- CPR & AED Training
- Coaching Speech and Debate
- Adjudicating Speech and Debate
- Band Safety
- Appearance and Performance Enhancing Drugs and Substances
- Coaching Student Leadership
- Emergency Action Plan for After School Programs

## Brakes Plus Team of the Month (May)

This spring, the Springfield Student Leadership team hosted an unforgettable “Easter Extravaganza” for over 200 K–5th grade students from all four public elementary schools in the county. In partnership with each school’s administration, the team coordinated transportation and planned a fun-filled 3.5-hour event that included games, activity stations, snacks, and a 3,000-egg Easter Hunt. The event was made possible through generous community donations, enthusiastic student volunteers, and a special appearance from a highly energetic Easter Bunny—who quickly became a crowd favorite.

Throughout the school year, the Springfield Student Leadership team has also collaborated closely with elementary teachers to create hands-on STEM activities for students in grades K–5. From building solar pizza ovens to launching homemade rocket ships, their work has sparked curiosity, creativity, and connection across grade levels. The Leadership team’s commitment to service and engagement continues to leave a meaningful impact on young learners throughout the community.



## NFHS Performing Arts Conference

22–24 September 2025  
Hyatt Lodge Oak Brook  
Chicago, Illinois



This conference is a mixture of speech, debate, theater, academics, and music sessions, along with the NFHS Performing Arts update.

[REGISTRATION LINK](#)

# 2025 National Conference on Student Activities

We are looking forward to the 53rd annual National Conference on Student Activities (NCSA), which will be held the weekend of December 5-7, 2025 in Grand Rapids, Michigan! **YOU** are invited to join us for a unique conference that brings together the Advocates, Advisors, Administrators, and Allies of Student Activities for a weekend of learning, networking, and fun! After NCSA 2025, you'll be inspired - and equipped - to make the most significant difference possible in the lives of your students, colleagues, and members of your school community!



[Conference Schedule](#)

[Conference Video](#)

## Communications Apps for Student Groups

Please continue to reinforce the importance of consistent and transparent communication between coaches and players—especially when it happens outside of scheduled practices or meetings. Open communication builds trust, supports student safety, and aligns with the expectations of our school communities.

There are a variety of communication apps available to help coaches maintain professional boundaries while staying connected with their teams. The apps listed below are just a few options. I encourage you to explore them all and choose the ones that align with your school and district policies.



## Make-A-Wish Colorado Youth Leadership Council

Do you know of any passionate high school student leaders who would like to volunteer and make an impact as a member of Make-A-Wish Colorado's Youth Leadership Council? This is a unique opportunity for students to give back, while also gaining valuable leadership skills and connecting with like-minded peers! Students must be in grades 9 - 12 and be able to commit to attending monthly in-person meetings October 2025 - May 2026 at the Make-A-Wish Colorado office. You can learn more by visiting <https://wish.org/colorado/youth-leadership-council>.

Applications are due Friday, August 30, 2024 at 11:59pm. Apply at:  
<https://wish.org/colorado/youth-volunteer-opportunities>.

Email questions to Hannah Burrin, Development Manager, at [hburrin@colorado.wish.org](mailto:hburrin@colorado.wish.org).