

MASC NEWSLETTER

Summer Briefing



COURTESY OF MASC HISTORIAN: MOLLY PENNINGTON

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Advance/Executive Board Meeting Recap

by Paige Plater

Screaming chants at the top of our lungs, sprinting across the grass, and dancing to Party in the USA are just a few of the core memories from Advance 2022. After two days of workshops, impactful group discussions, and tons of objectives, fifty-three students were certified as workshop presenters. An incredible turnout for the first in-person advance since 2019.

The three day event didn't only include workshop presenter training, there was also workshop planning for Fall Leadership Conference and an executive board meeting for students across Maryland. The event, hosted by MCR at the Lathrop E. Smith Environmental Education Center took place Tuesday, August 2nd, through Thursday, August 4th.

Hosting the first in-person advance in three years was a difficult task. Many of the students who either helped plan the last advance or even those that attended have graduated. The planning team, comprised of student workshop coordinators (SWCs), officers, department directors, and executive directors worked tirelessly to plan an exciting event. "When planning workshops and activities we took into account input from students across the state to make this the best possible experience for all in attendance!" says Jordan Hayes, one of the SWCs.

Service Spotlight: Manna Food Drive

by: Anusha Krishnan

The service coordinators, Amira and Laura, worked hard this summer to execute a successful food drive that took place at Advance. Partnering with Manna Food Center, they organized a donation of non-perishable food items and gathered almost two full boxes!

Manna Food Center, located in Silver Spring, MD, is an organization that works to help eradicate hunger and food insecurity through food collection and distribution, education, and advocacy. Manna opened in 1983 and started with a small budget of \$3,100 and 16 pounds of food collected per day but now works to serve over 50,000 people in the area and distributes approximately 12,000 pounds of food daily. Manna offers opportunities for service coordination, in-person volunteering, and food drop-offs.

Amira Abujuma, one of this year's service coordinators, is a rising senior at North Point High School and Charles County Student Member of the Board of Education (SMOB).



(L TO R) ANUSHA KRISHNAN ('24), DANIEL SUH ('24), AND SHAIREE ARORA ('23) DROP DONATIONS OFF AT THE MANNA FOOD CENTER

She says, "Laura and I chose Manna because we wanted to find a way to give back to the Montgomery County community since that is where Advance was being held. It was also pretty close to the Smith Center where we were staying." This was MASC's first service project of the year so, "...it was important that it went well." Laura Huelskamp, a rising junior at Northern Garrett High School and Garret County Association of Student Councils (GCASC) President, is another one of the service coordinators this year. She says they also partnered with Manna because, "...they were great to work with and have a goal of delivering nutritious food which is important." She says they, "...advertised the event on social media beforehand and sent out emails to the executive board."

For the coming year, Amira and Laura would love to continue to have more donations or drives held at every executive board meeting or in-person event to make the most of being back in-person after almost a two-and-a-half year break due to the Covid-19 pandemic. There they can count on participation from almost all of the 50 executive board members. "It's a great way to give back to the community and keep the executive board engaged in service," says Amira. "For the months that MASC doesn't have executive board meetings, we hope to use the



MANNA FOOD CENTER COURTESY WEAR TV

bulletin, newsletters, and social media to give ideas of service projects people can do on their own. MASC would love to highlight these service initiatives that counties and schools are taking on.” They would also like to add more service resources to the website for counties to utilize.

Amira and Laura are excited for the year to come after their successful food drive and hope to continue to give back to the community through their position.



MANNA FOOD TRUCK COURTESY OF COMMUNITY FOOD RESCUE CENTER

MASC 22-23 Theme

by:Paige Plater

What comes to mind when you think of leadership? What exciting topics can students relate to advocacy? How can we keep workshops exciting? Each year members of the MASC officer team and appointed staff ask these questions. The theme for the school year was announced at the August executive board meeting.

This year’s theme is: The Magic of MASC: Spellbinding Leadership. Stay tuned to see how this theme is incorporated into this year’s MASC events.



UPCOMING EVENTS

- **September 1:** MASC Membership Opens (<https://tinyurl.com/yfzfachx>)
- **September 5-19:** Registration for the Sept. 24 Workshop Presenter Certification (<http://bit.ly/2wgciui>)
- **September 24:** Workshop Presenter Certification (last opportunity for certification this year) – Northern High School, Calvert County
- **September 27 - October 11:** Registration for the State SMOB Informational Webinar (Oct. 13, 7:00 p.m.) (<https://tinyurl.com/4vu8kw6w>)