

# FALL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE IDEA SHARING

*November 22, 2025*

*“S.G.Agents – Student Government in  
Action”*

- *Service Projects that Make a Difference*
  - *Fundraising That Works*
  - *Building School Spirit That Lasts*
  - *General Student Engagement Ideas*



# Service Projects that Make a Difference!



*Although one person's effort may seem small, every act of service can have a big impact—and when students everywhere take action, it can spark a real change! Service projects can help people in your school, your community, your state, or even the world. Giving your time can open your eyes to new experiences and become a lifelong habit of helping others.*

*As Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. once said, “Everyone can be great because everyone can serve.” Think about the many ways students make a difference...*

- *Helping the elderly or homeless*
- *Working with younger children*
- *Protecting the environment, locally or globally*

*And don't forget—Maryland has a service-learning graduation requirement, so every project not only helps others but also helps you! ([Resource packet](#))*

## Community Support & Donation Drives

- Food drives (weekly, seasonal, or competitive “class vs. class” drives)
- Holiday food baskets for families
- “Adopt a Family” gift lists
- Annual coat, sneaker, or winter clothing giveaways
- Clothing drives (including professional clothing)
- Sock drives / “Socktober”
- Hygiene product drives (including feminine products)
- Book drives (schoolwide or competition style)
- School supply drives
- Gift card collections for families in need
- Candy drives or leftover Halloween candy for deployed troops
- Toys for Tots and toy drives
- Backpacks or school supplies for students in need
- Pet food and pet supply donations

## Service for Children & Families

- Holiday treat bags for kids who can't trick-or-treat
- Truck-or-Treat / Fall festival for families
- Easter egg hunts
- Santa's workshop events
- Community day or fall festival with crafts, games, and food
- School beautification events
- “Take What You Need” positivity boards
- Tutoring: peer tutoring, office hours for freshmen

- Thanksgiving turkey drives
- Backpack giveaway events

### *Veterans, Seniors, & First Responders*

- Letters to veterans
- Letters to deployed soldiers
- Letters to senior citizens/holiday cards
- Senior center performances
- Cook meals for first responders
- Wreaths Across America participation

### *Environmental & Health Initiatives*

- Bay clean-ups/pollution projects
- Composting programs
- School recycling initiatives
- Memorial garden maintenance
- Wellness days or mental health day events

### *Teacher & Staff Appreciation*

- Teacher breakfasts
- Teacher Appreciation Week donations
- Gift cards for teachers and counselors
- “Adopt a Teacher” programs

### *Community Schools Support*

- Maintaining food/clothing closets
- Saturday pickup for families
- “Community school closets” for clothing, hygiene, and food items

### *Youth Leadership & Community Partnerships*

- Youth Climate Institute capstone projects
- Speakers from local businesses
- Entrepreneurship day
- EMT / volunteer public service recruitment
- Career exploration events

# Fundraising That Works!



*Let's be honest—every student group needs funds to make great things happen! From dances and spirit weeks to service projects and trips, fundraising is how ideas become reality. But with so many options out there, how do you pick the right one?*

*A great fundraiser doesn't just happen overnight—it takes planning, teamwork, and creativity! Start by giving yourself plenty of time—at least a month—from the first idea to the final dollar raised. You'll need time to plan, promote, and run your fundraiser. The more you plan ahead, the smoother things will go and the more fun you'll have along the way! ([Resource packet](#))*

## Simple & Student-Friendly

- Candy grams/boo grams/holiday grams
- Hot chocolate sales
- Bake sales
- Breakfast sales
- Selling cookies
- Selling bracelets
- Selling school merchandise or SGA shirts
- Penny wars
- Before-school breakfast sales
- Bookstore or school store
- Art sales
- FUNDrive (Be sure to use MASC's [referral link!](#))

## Larger Fundraisers & Events

- Pasta party after school
- Movie nights / outdoor movies
- Gaming tournament
- Carnivals/festivals (Fall Festival, Festival on the Green)
- Walk-and-talk fundraiser (\$1 to walk with a friend)
- Fashion show/thrift sale using donated dresses & suits
- Polar Bear Plunge
- Turkey Bowl fundraiser
- Concerts or talent shows

## Restaurant & Business Partnerships

- Chipotle, Raising Cane's, Chick-fil-A, Rita's, Sweet Frog nights
- Local restaurant partnerships
- Connect with small businesses for sponsorships or community nights

### *Online or Product-Based Fundraisers*

- Double Good Popcorn
- Snap! Raise
- Gertrude Hawk chocolate
- World's Finest Chocolate

### *Creative Ideas*

- Gingerbread house contest
- Dance competitions ("Dancing with the Teachers/Stars")
- Raffles (gift baskets, merch, tickets)
- Pie-in-the-face challenges
- Teacher dunk tank at fairs

# Building School Spirit That Lasts!



*When you think of school spirit, you might picture dress-up days, banners, or pep rallies. Those traditions are awesome—but school spirit today is about so much more. Students, schools, and communities have all changed, and school spirit has to grow and change with them!*

*Some people think school spirit isn't as important as academics or social issues. But the truth is, strong school spirit can actually help with those challenges. It builds pride, connection, and a sense of belonging—things every school needs to thrive.*

*Because at its heart, school spirit isn't just “rah-rah.” It's about community—believing in something bigger than yourself, knowing that your school matters, and that you are an important part of it. ([Resource packet](#))*

*As the saying goes: “Attitude is a little thing that makes a big difference!”*

## Spirit Weeks & Daily Themes

- Pajama day
- Twin day
- Crazy sock/hair day
- Dress like your future career
- Dress like a movie character
- Disney day
- Adam Sandler day
- Anything But a Backpack
- Anything But a Water Bottle
- Color wars (by grade or building floors)
- “Rally in Red” or single-color spirit days
- School mascot day
- Students dress as teachers/teachers dress as students
- Country or region-themed days (every floor a region)
- Cultural celebrations/heritage month events
- Spirit stick competitions

## Pep Rallies & Assemblies

- Lip sync battles
- Musical chairs
- Inflatable obstacle races
- Rock-paper-scissors tournament
- Class competitions (attendance, spirit points, etc.)
- Teacher vs. student games

- Pep rally with sports teams, cheer, band, poms
- Save-a-staff-member pie-in-the-face

### *Game-Day Spirit*

- Student section themes (USA, Pink Out, Hawaiian, etc.)
- Tailgates with club booths
- Pre-game marching band walkthrough
- Spirit buses to away games

### *Decorating & School Beautification*

- Hallway decorating for Homecoming
- Stairwell themes
- Door decorating competitions
- Locker decorating for athletes
- Homecoming posters
- Seasonal banners and murals

### *Community-Building School Spirit*

- Potlucks
- Traditions like senior sunrise
- Schoolwide breakfast/pancake day
- Field day (with feeder schools included)
- School fairs with clubs
- Club fairs at the beginning of the year
- Spirit week with a final “goal” event

# General Student Engagement Ideas!



## Events & Activities

- Homecoming festival
- New student welcome baskets
- School dances (HOCO, winter dance, etc.)
- Student-run clubs & niche clubs (ski club, K-pop club)
- Entrepreneurship speakers or a business fair
- Cultural night / International night
- Wellness days
- Teacher vs. student sports games
- Pre-HOCO party or rally

## Communication & Outreach

- Student spotlight posts on Instagram
- School/club social media partnerships
- Newsletters for scholarships and internships

## Partnerships & Feeder School Connections

- Meet-ups between high schoolers and elementary students
- Field day with feeder schools
- MS vs. HS games