



Becoming A Chapter Officer

Why should you want to become a Chapter Officer?

- A rewarding experience to further in the mission of SACNAS
- Opportunities to define how your professional goals align with your personal positionality
- Being a Chapter Officer is good for your career development and helps you cultivate your time management, team leadership
- This a vital position to better your SACNAS Chapter
- Allows you to form meaningful connections with your SACNAS Chapter members and relationships with SACNAS members at the national level
- Opportunity to participate in the annual Chapter Officer October Leadership Retreat to best shape your Chapter to the needs of the community

In summary, becoming a Chapter Officer in the Society for the Advancement of Chicanos/Hispanics and Native Americans in Science can be a rewarding experience that allows you to develop leadership skills, positively impact your community, and gain valuable experience that can be useful for your future career. Here are some steps you can take to become a chapter officer:

1. **Attend meetings and events:** The first step to becoming an officer is to join a SACNAS chapter at your institution / organization. Attend meetings regularly and participate in the chapter's activities to demonstrate your commitment to the organization. Volunteer to help with various projects and initiatives to gain experience with the chapter's various activities.
2. **Network with current officers:** Take the opportunity to connect with current officers and members through SACNAS events and conferences. Ask them about their experiences and how they got involved. Building relationships with current officers can help you learn more about the chapter's structure, expectations, and plans.
3. **Identify your strengths:** Assess your strengths and skills to determine which officer position you would be best suited for. SACNAS chapters typically have functions such as president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, and events coordinator.
4. **Volunteer for chapter events:** Look for opportunities to develop skills useful in an officer role, such as event planning, budgeting, communication, and team management. Seek training or mentorship opportunities to build your skills and knowledge in these areas.

5. **Demonstrate leadership skills:** Take on organizational roles such as leading a project or initiative. Show initiative and creativity in proposing new ideas and strategies to achieve the organization's goals. Don't be afraid to try to build events based off of your own interests, especially if those interests are shared with other members of the chapter.
6. **Apply for a position:** Once you have identified the officer position that best suits you, apply for the position when it becomes available. Most chapters hold elections at the end of the academic year for the upcoming year.
7. **Prepare for the election:** To prepare for the election, create a platform outlining your goals and vision for the chapter. Prepare a speech to deliver during the election and practice with friends or family to gain confidence.
8. **Participate in the election:** During the election, deliver your speech to the chapter members and answer any questions they may have. Be professional, passionate, and confident.
9. **Follow up and / or be patient and persistent:**
 - a. After the election, follow up with the chapter members to thank them for their support and express your excitement to serve as an officer. Begin working with the other officers to plan events and initiatives for the upcoming year.
 - b. Becoming an officer in a SACNAS institution / organization chapter is a competitive process and securing a position may take some time. Be patient and persistent in your efforts and continue to show your commitment to the organization and its mission.

Remember, being a Chapter Officer in a SACNAS Chapter is a significant responsibility and requires a solid commitment to the organization's mission and goals. By following these steps, you can increase your chances of becoming a Chapter Officer and positively impacting your community.