

Monthly PTA Program Ideas

July/August-
Beginnings

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Why PTA?

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November-
Gratitude

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Giving

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Shining Bright

February-The
Heart of PTA

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Potentials

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May-
CELEBRATE!!!!

Programming Ideas for your local PTA/PTSA

Taken from the National PTA website: "The overall purpose of PTA is to make every child's potential a reality by engaging and empowering families and communities to advocate for all children."

Fundraising is never mentioned in the mission statement for PTA. Money can certainly provide the means to do great things for our schools and children. But the real heart of PTA is connecting with our families, teachers and communities through **programs**

Programs – what your PTA provides for its members.

Programs – **value** in membership dues.

Programs – learning and growing together to advocate for all children.

The Golden Rule of PTA is that local units should provide THREE programs for every one fundraiser. Chances are your PTA is already providing some programs now, many behind-the-scenes that parents may be unaware of. Do your volunteers provide lunch relief for teachers? Does your PTA offer teacher grants for classroom supplies? Make sure your members are aware of all that PTA offers AND make sure your calendar is full of opportunities for your families and school community to come together.

South Carolina PTA is committed to helping our local units develop meaningful programs that will also meet the standards of Family-School Partnerships:

Welcoming All Families
Communicating Effectively
Supporting Student Success
Speaking up for Every Child
Sharing Power
Collaborating with Community



We have created for you an outline of monthly themes and ideas. Feel free to adapt and tailor to your school's calendar and needs. Check scpta.org for more detailed descriptions and overviews.

July/August-Beginnings

Elementary

Middle & High

Host a get-to-know-each-other event for all new PTA officers and chairs. Keep it casual and fun. Brainstorm for the upcoming year.	Host a get-to-know-each-other event for all new PTA officers and chairs. Keep it casual and fun. Brainstorm for the upcoming year.
Host a Back-to-School event where students & parents can meet the teacher & staff in a casual setting, i.e., ice cream social and have the teachers “serve”	Host a Back-to-School event where students & parents can meet the teacher & staff in a casual setting, i.e., ice cream social and have the teachers “serve”
At your first Board meeting, define your focus for the year and set goals. Increase membership? Connect with more volunteers? Start one new program tradition? Launch the Reflection Arts program?	At your first Board meeting, define your focus for the year and set goals. Increase membership? Connect with more volunteers? Start one new program tradition? Launch the Reflection Arts program?

September-Why PTA?

Elementary

Middle & High

At the first PTA meeting/Open House, highlight events & volunteer opportunities offered by your PTA; spotlight national & local business partners & members discounts/offers; offer merchant coupons to PTA members only.	At the first PTA meeting/Open House, highlight events & volunteer opportunities offered by your PTA; spotlight national & local business partners & members discounts/offers; offer merchant coupons to PTA members only; offer incentives for students who join (discounts on event admissions, school store discount)
Welcome Dads! Kick-off a Watch D.O.G.S. group or MENToring group.	Welcome Dads! Kick-off a Watch D.O.G.S. group or MENToring group.
Host a Grandparents’ Day event: Grits w/Grands, invitations for book fairs, lunch dates (think about sponsoring a Grandparents Club for volunteer opportunities, i.e., tutoring.	Kick of your Reflection Arts program with National Arts in Education Week (2nd week in September).
Kick of your Reflection Arts program with National Arts in Education Week (2nd week in September).	Host a voter registration drive; National Voter Registration Day, is September 22.
Host a voter registration drive; National Voter Registration Day, is September 22.	Enroll your PTA in the National PTA School of Excellence program by October 1.
Enroll your PTA in the National PTA School of Excellence program by October 1.	

October-Safety

Elementary

Middle & High

Anti-Bullying Month: Host a parenting session lead by a psychiatrist/psychologist or counselor.	Anti-Bullying Month: Host a parenting session lead by a psychiatrist/psychologist or counselor; local law enforcement & school district personnel can provide speakers on cyber bullying.
Walk-to-School Day (1st Wednesday). Promote exercise, community and safe walkways to schools.	Walk-to-School Day (1st Wednesday). Promote exercise, community and safe walkways to schools.
Fire Prevention Month.: Partner with your local fire departments to bring in speakers, host smoke detector inspections, give away smoke detectors.	Host Gun Safety events. Start a Be SMART campaign (to reduce child gun deaths).
Host Gun Safety events. Start a Be SMART campaign (to reduce child gun deaths).	Work with your school library to host Teen Read Week events (week of Columbus Day)
National Substance Abuse Month: & Drug Awareness (Red Ribbon Week). Host school-wide events for Red Ribbon week. Host parent sessions to discuss the dangers facing children today.	National Substance Abuse Month: & Drug Awareness (Red Ribbon Week). Host school-wide events for Red Ribbon week. Host parent sessions to discuss dangerous trends, signs to look for in your child, ways to direct your child to alternative and where to go for help.
Invite your school officials to your school: school board trustees, county & city councilmen, state representatives.	Invite your school officials to your school: school board trustees, county & city councilmen, state representatives.

November-Gratitude

Elementary

Middle & High

Healthy Lifestyles Month: Host a health fair including flu shots, blood pressure screenings, 10 minute massage tables, exercise classes of Zumba, yoga, etc. Host a Family Run. Use Lysol's Healthy Habits resources available from National PTA to promote good hygiene habits.	Healthy Lifestyles Month: Host a health fair including flu shots, blood pressure screenings, 10 minute massage tables, exercise classes of Zumba, yoga for your teachers and families. Use Lysol's Healthy Habits resources available from National PTA to promote good hygiene habits.
Host a Veteran's Day patriotic celebration.	Host a Veteran's Day patriotic celebration.
Celebrate American Education Week (week prior to Thanksgiving week)-celebrate public education. Host a luncheon for teachers and include support staff & substitute teachers.	Celebrate American Education Week (week prior to Thanksgiving week)-celebrate public education. Host a luncheon for teachers and include support staff & substitute teachers.
Thank a teacher with a "thanksgiving" pie: parent volunteers send in pies to distribute to staff.	Remember to recognize and publicize your Reflections Arts school winners.
Sponsor an "Eat at Home Spirit Night". Celebrate families eating healthy together. Have families send in photos and winners receive grocery store gift cards.	Host "get out the Vote" drives.
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Host "get out the Vote" drives.	

December-Giving

Elementary

Middle & High

Partner with community groups, i.e., Salvation Army, Toys for Tots, churches, etc.) and host a drive.	Partner with community groups, i.e., Salvation Army, Toys for Tots, churches, etc.) and host a drive.
Plant tress at your school for Arbor Day (1st Friday). Plant in honor of special volunteers, classes, loved ones.	Plant tress at your school for Arbor Day (1st Friday). Plant in honor of special volunteers, classes, loved ones.
Remember to order your 2016 SCPTA Reflections Arts entries at lulu.com on the SCPTA website.	Remember to order your 2016 SCPTA Reflections Arts entries at lulu.com on the SCPTA website.

January-Shining Bright into the New Year

Elementary

Middle & High

In honor of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day host a day of service in your community.	In honor of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day host workshops on non-violence & tolerance.
Host a Storytelling Night & Pancake Supper. Guests readers share different books or genres.	Host a student Talent Show. Open it up to faculty and support staff as well.
Host a recycled book drive..	Host a Poetry Jam.
Host a student Talent Show or Faculty Follies show.	
Sponsor an Arts in Residence for your school.	

February-Celebrate the PTA Founder's Day, February 17

Elementary

Middle & High

Mental Health Awareness: Host parenting sessions to help students cope with stress & anxiety. Mental Health America (MHA) & National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) and local guidance counselors are wonderful resources.	Mental Health Awareness: Host parenting sessions to help students cope with stress & anxiety coping strategies; how to identify & help your teen with depression; learn about new practices guidance counselors must follow with potentially suicidal students; and resources to turn to for help. Host sessions with guest speakers and counselors (work with your guidance department)
Launch a month-long Read Across America reading challenge: build up to Read Across America Day on March 2.	Host any of the following: Ta
Host any of the following: Take Your Family to School week, Career Day, Culture Day, Families for Lunch Day, Donuts with Dudes, Daddy/Daughter Dance, Pottery Night, Pasta with Pops Spaghetti Dinner.	Host any of the following: Take Your Family to School week, Career Day, Culture Day, Families for Lunch Day.

March-Great Potentials

Elementary

Middle & High

National Reading Month: Host a Read Across America Day, March 2 with a guest reader, “Cat” hats, birthday cake.	National Reading Month: Host a Book Club
Celebrate National Pi Day, March 14. Host a Math Night with hands-on games for families to play together and take home; serve pizza.	Celebrate National Pi Day, March 14.
Go Green for St. Patrick’s Day: Host recycling events to collect batteries, printer cartridges, newspapers.	Go Green for St. Patrick’s Day: Host recycling events to collect batteries, printer cartridges, newspapers, old cell phones.
	In anticipation of Prom Season, host speakers and assemblies to discuss drunk driving prevention (local law enforcement and MADD resources) and pledge to keep safe.
	Work with your guidance departments to host “Soft Skills” workshops for students.

April-Renewal

Elementary

Middle & High

Drop Everything and Read Month (R.E.A.D.). Celebrate Earth Day, April 22. Host a Grounds Clean Up day, sponsor a walk-a-thon or family run, start a campus garden	Celebrate Earth Day on April 22. Host a Grounds Clean Up day on campus.
Host a pet drive for a local shelter.	Host a pet drive for a local shelter.
Help a food bank restock shelves with a canned food drive.	Help a food bank restock shelves with a canned food drive
Host a Blood Drive.	Host a Blood Drive.
Attend the SCPTA Annual Convention April 15-16. Wear your school shirts!	Attend the SCPTA Annual Convention April 15-16. Wear your school shirts!



**PTA Excitement
at Stiles Point
Elementary
School**

May-CELEBRATE!!

Elementary

Middle & High

Teacher Appreciation Week, 1st week of May	Teacher Appreciation Week, 1st week of May
Host a Screen Free Week (May 2-8). Unplug from digital screens!	Host a Screen Free Week (May 2-8). Unplug from digital screens!
Host an End-of-the Year Celebration. Choose from these or think up your own: Introduce your new PTA officers for next school year, highlight all that your PTA has accomplished this year & share awards earned at the SCPTA Annual Convention, Spotlight any students who won State an/or National honors in Reflections Arts Program, provide a meal-free or at cost (this is NOT a fundraiser), present gifts to teachers for Teacher Appreciation Week, recognize outstanding Volunteers, consider a lifetime PTA membership to a volunteer, support staff, teacher or administrator, have a fun “draw”-faculty tug-of-war, guesstimation jars, raffles, reveal next year’s school theme or summer reading program.	Host an End-of-the Year Celebration. Choose from these or think up your own: Introduce your new PTA officers for next school year, highlight all that your PTA has accomplished this year & share awards earned at the SCPTA Annual Convention, Spotlight any students who won State an/or National honors in Reflections Arts Program, provide a meal-free or at cost (this is NOT a fundraiser), present gifts to teachers for Teacher Appreciation Week, recognize outstanding Volunteers, consider a lifetime PTA membership to a volunteer, support staff, teacher or administrator, have a fun “draw”-faculty tug-of-war, guesstimation jars, raffles, reveal next year’s school theme or summer reading program.
Distribute a survey of interests to your parents and teachers to learn what programs to offer next year.	Distribute a survey of interests to your parents and teachers to learn what programs to offer next year.
Host officer transition workshops, have the outgoing PTA board pass on notebooks to the incoming board.	Host officer transition workshops, have the outgoing PTA board pass on notebooks to the incoming board.
Have one overlapping board meeting with both outgoing and incoming boards.	Have one overlapping board meeting with both outgoing and incoming boards.

**PTA Excitement
at Spann
Elementary
School**



Real programs and projects working in real schools.....

Rudolph Gordon Elementary-Kids Bazaar. We had a 4th grade student ask if she could sell her rubber band bracelets at the school store....knowing we couldn't do this for JUST her, our wheels started spinning. We decided to have a Kids' Bazaar and tie it to our PTA meeting for December. We asked the students that wanted to participate (grades 2-5) to send us a persuasive letter explaining why we should choose them... BOY, did we get some awesome letters :) They were completely responsible for making their items, keeping track of their money and setting up their table/ booth. It was so much fun and quite a learning experience. We had a free (donated) hot dog dinner and had K5 and 1st grade singing Christmas carols (this was our way to involve the younger grades). Families were working together and it was awesome! This was hands down the greatest thing we did this year.

Northwood Middle-Christmas Knights, charity fundraiser. Christmas Knights is coordinated by the PTA and accepts donations from our students, parents, community organizations and businesses. We have a friendly competition between the grades to see who can raise the most money during the collection week that runs after Thanksgiving break. During the collection week, PTA volunteers are in the cafeteria during lunch to collect money from the students. We call this "Penny Sabotage". Pennies are positive points, while silver coins, dollars, and checks are negative points. Students (and teachers) can donate pennies to help their grade and can donate other coins, dollars, and checks to sabotage the other grades! It's really fun to watch the kids compete for their grade to win; the winning grade gets dress down days. Typically we raise between \$3,000 & \$5,000 just during that one week (mostly in pennies) and all of those monies are spent totally on the kids & families! Our Guidance Counselors & teachers identify students that could use some help at Christmas. They get gift ideas from the parents. PTA volunteers shop for each student, spending a specific amount of money on each child. We also use the money collected to purchase a turkey dinner for each family. During this event we have the opportunity to help some of our own students as well as their families.

Riverside High -Bob Hope Special - PTSA sponsored two college professionals (Bob Horst and Hope Murtaugh) to come and talk to our parents and students about "The Road to College" - how to research, select and get into your preferred college. Topics included ACT and SAT tests, classes you should take in high school to maximize your chance for acceptance, how and when to apply and more.