Membership Structure

**HSDA**

"High School Democrats of America (HSDA) is a national political organization that serves as an entry point to Democratic politics for youth activists from across the country.

**NHHSD**

"New Hampshire High School Democrats (NHHSD) is a political organization that serves as an entry point for high school students across the state to get involved with Democratic politics."

**NH CHAPTER**

A local group of high school students, joined either by a school district or close geographic proximity, who work together under both the NHHSD and HSDA to directly organize within their community.
Before Starting a Chapter...

**REGISTER**
Join over 15,000 others and register as a member of the HSDA here; select "No, I'm not part of a local chapter". Membership allows you to vote in organization elections and receive important informational newsletters.

**CONTACT US**
Visit the NHHSD website here and find the contact information of our current expansion director. While starting a chapter usually occurs at a community level, the NHHSD Executive Board will serve as a great resource.
A chapter is only as strong as its members. If many students at your school show interest in democratic politics, a school-affiliated chapter is a great option. If there is little interest, try reaching out to other students from other schools to build a community chapter.

For school-affiliated chapters, it is important to go through your district's due process to establish a club. This usually entails reaching out to an administrator and filling out paperwork with your advisor.

Every successful chapter needs an advisor (someone 18+) to lend a hand. For school-affiliated chapters, this is usually a teacher. For community chapters, this can be a parent, friend, or even a local politician.

Once your chapter has been approved/established, make it official by filling this HSDA form.
The First Step of Chapter Growth is Building a Brand

Building a Brand To-Do List

- Create a Group Email
- Google Drive
- Construct a Branding Materials Sheet
- Establish a Social Media Presence
- Organize with Linktree
- Bask in the Glory of a Cohesive Brand

Tips

- Keep track of all your passwords and accounts in one place for future generations of your chapter
- Organize older projects in folders by year
- Use business accounts on social media when possible, they provide greater insight on reach and engagement
Get Your Name Out

Word-of-Mouth  Social Media  Intercom  Flyers  Club Fair
YOUR FIRST MEETING

BREAK THE ICE
Get to know your members and what drew them to democratic politics with a discussion or group bonding activity. If your chapter feels like a friend group, members are likely to keep returning.

SET SOME GOALS
After identifying why each member is a democrat, shape some goals for the rest of the year that your chapter will be invested in. This can be issue-specific (ie climate change, abortion) or more general (ie fundraising, chapter growth).

ESTABLISH A TIME
Schedule a regular time to meet for the rest of the year. Consistency is key to sustainability.

LEADERSHIP
While executive structure of a chapter is up to the discretion of its members, NHHSD recommends (at the very least) an elected chapter leader to connect with the E-board and lead meetings.
Legislative Liaison

In addition to local chapter leadership, the NHHSD also requests a volunteer legislative liaison from each chapter to join our advocacy director in preparing testimony on NH bills on behalf of the NHHSD.
Meeting Ideas

Discussion/Debate
Informative Presentation
Guest Speaker
Phone Banking/Letter Writing
Fun Meeting
Project Ideas

- Item Drive
- PSA Campaign
- Rally
- Informational Event
- Campaign Internship
Extra Tips

- Struggling with membership? Food at a meeting (ie a pizza party) is a great way to bribe new members to join

- Need a last-minute idea for a meeting? Plan a viewing party of one of the NHHSD training videos available on our website

- Is admin against a political club? Point them to the Equal Rights Act, which denies public schools the right to oppress politics in limited open forum

- Not enough people in your community to start a chapter? Contact our expansion director to join a virtual one

- Need more info? Read the HSDA's official 2022 guide to starting and running chapters here
INFORMATION FOR THIS PRESENTATION WAS SOURCED FROM "STARTING AND RUNNING YOUR LOCAL CHAPTER 1.0" AND "STARTING AND RUNNING YOUR LOCAL CHAPTER 2022"