



## High School Republicans of Texas

### Starting a High School Republican Club in a Nutshell

#### **Introduction-**

Starting an HSRT club in your high school or community can be a rewarding experience for both you and the area you will serve. You will be able to make your mark on your area and will all too likely be brought into the internal decision making of your local Republican Party. In starting an HSRT club, you will become an official part of the Republican Party and that is very impressive to those who will judge your success later in life.

#### **Type of Club-**

We have two types of clubs, those in a high school and those outside of a high school.

*On-Campus-* These clubs are a part of a particular high school and are primarily made up of the members of that high school, they will usually meet during school hours at the high school.

*Off-Campus-* These clubs are based outside of a specific high school and can be made up of members throughout the community, including homeschooled youth. These clubs meet off campus.

#### **Club Requirements-**

HSRT clubs must...

- Have at least 7 members
- Have an elected chairman or other leader and at least one additional officer
- Have a club constitution or bylaws approved by HSRT
- Have a current (on an annual basis) club registration form on file with HSRT
- Have at least one adult sponsor

#### **Naming-**

HSRT clubs are usually named in correlation with the institution or area in which they will serve and take on titles such as “\_\_\_\_\_ High School Republicans”, “\_\_\_\_\_ High School Young Republicans” and “\_\_\_\_\_ Teenage Republicans”

## **The Process of Starting a Club-**

Clubs will generally be created in the fall, but can be created at anytime. You will need to find the exact parameters of your school's club creation process if you're on-campus; usually you can discuss this with a vice principal. Generally starting during an election year is best; but do not let this hold you back. Always try to involve your local county party as they can help you succeed and are always looking for youth to join and help the party.

## **Finding a Sponsor-**

*On-Campus-* Find a member of the faculty to help you.

*Off-Campus-* Find a member of your local Party apparatus who can help you, but make sure they are not overbearing.

## **Recruiting-**

After finding your initial 7 members, remember that you must begin to expand. On campus this can be done quite easily by handing out flyers and word of mouth. If a club is off-campus, the job will be a little harder; you will have to reach out to many different types of people who will help spread the message mainly by word of mouth. Be sure to utilize every opportunity to spread your message, including social media!

## **First Meeting-**

The first meeting will be highly unorganized by the nature of being an inaugural event, yet organizing a highly detailed agenda can be useful in helping solve this problem. This will largely be a meet and greet plus an informational meeting at which everyone meets everyone else and you plan how to go forward. A longer list of specific items to do at the first meeting will be provided in a lengthier Guide.

## **Second Meeting-**

The second meeting will largely be your organizational meeting, details will be voted on and actions will be taken which will solidify your status as an HSRT club. It gets a lot easier from there. Monthly meetings can be planned at which your organization decides the steps it needs to take to further its goals such as fundraisers, get out the vote drives, volunteering for candidates and the county party and speakers.

## **Organization and Activities-**

In order to lay out how your club will be organized, HSRT requires every club to have a constitution or bylaws, an official document that describes the purpose and structure of your club. Examples can be found in the full guide or requested from HSRT. One important thing your bylaws or constitution will do is prescribe the officer positions in your club. The officers of

the club perform the duties which keep the club going usually include a Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary, and Treasurer, though club structures can vary. Exact duties of each office will be prescribed by your individual club. Larger clubs will often have committees as well. They can serve special functions such as membership, publicity, and fundraising or community service.

### **Meetings-**

Meetings will largely follow a format given in the latter Guide, but will mainly serve as a time in which your club members can reconnect. These meetings will be chances for everyone to be involved in the running of the club and can serve as many teenagers' primary political outlet.

### **Outside Activities-**

Your club will always be very involved with the local county party and will usually be used as a source of volunteers for political races in your area. Your club can also be highly involved with local community service efforts to improve the lives of those living around you in your community; things like volunteering at food banks and canned food drives will be excellent opportunities to spread the Republican message of compassion for those around you. And sometimes your club may just want to have fun, so this will be when your club sponsors social events such as pizza parties and having a meeting at a member's house (who might just coincidentally have a pool).

### **Fundraising-**

Of course every organization needs to be in a good financial position and fundraising helps that. Although your Treasurer will likely handle monetary transactions, the job of the fiscal wellbeing of your club will fall on all members and can be met in a number of ways such as charging a fee for t-shirts, membership dues, and donations from local Republicans.

### **Conclusion-**

Overall, starting an HSRT club will be one of the most rewarding experiences of your high school career, yet it does come with a commitment. If you are interested in learning more about starting an HSRT chapter, please fill out the contact form on the "Start a Chapter" page of HSRT's website, [www.hsrtx.org](http://www.hsrtx.org), and you will receive the full "Guide to Starting a High School Republican Club."