

State Association Information and Promotion Ideas



National Student Leadership Summit

The Alexander Hotel, Indianapolis, Indiana | **July 14 – 17, 2025**

2025 NFHS National Student Leadership Summit



The National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) will be hosting the National Student Leadership Summit (NSLS) **July 14-17, 2025**. The NSLS is based on a model of discussing and strategizing relevant and contemporary issues affecting today's students in education-based athletics and performing arts. Some of the critical goals of the NSLS for the students are to further develop their understanding of positive leadership and to be aware of the privilege and power of their influence in their school, community and state.

By utilizing a lead-the-leader concept, the student and adult ambassadors will be developing skills to effectively lead their peers at school and in their state association. By targeting specific topics, each student ambassador will learn how to create a positive culture on their team/club and how to be better communicators with their peers and adults. They will learn how to develop and maintain healthy relationships with teammates, fellow participants, coaches/adult leaders and officials. Another topic that has gained momentum and importance is mental health. More now than ever, our young people are feeling the pressures of school, athletics, activities, and life. They need practical and easy-to-use methods to keep things in balance and in the proper perspective. Our content

experts will take the ambassadors through a series of interactive activities to help manage their mental health and identify local advocacy resources if more care is needed. Our experts will do a "Master Class" into planning for the future because post-high school and/or career selection is crucial. Learn from our experts how to begin planning that adventure and to start thinking strategically. Our young leaders have requested that our content experts work with them in effectively understanding and advocating for inclusion. Because leadership means so much more than making decisions-it is about fostering an environment where everyone feels valued and included. Our content experts will present these issues in a lecture/interactive format in small breakout group sessions. Lastly, the students will participate in an exciting engagement with local Indiana Unified team schools for joint competition, shared athletic experiences and joyous camaraderie!

Summit meals, materials, airport shuttle and ground transportation while at the NSLS will be provided by the NFHS.

The cost of the summit for the student ambassadors is **free**. They have to provide their transportation to and from the Summit. The hotel room, materials, meals and ground transportation will be provided by the NFHS. The Adult ambassadors will also have to provide their own transportation to Indianapolis and will have to pay for their hotel room (\$140 plus taxes and fees per night, single or double rooms). The NFHS will make all the room reservations for the students and adults after they have registered for the summit. We will forward the confirmation numbers to every attendee.

The NFHS will take care of the students' room reservations and assign their roommates of the same gender.



Summit Expectations

Student Ambassadors:

- Attend all student ambassador sessions for the National Student Leadership Summit (NSLS)
- Participate in all NSLS activities
- Take Summit information, skills and techniques back to teammates, classmates, friends, family, community and the local high school athletic/activities associations
- Follow all NSLS ground rules (including leaving all facilities in as good or better condition than when they arrived)
- Be able to contribute to an operational state action plan

Adult Ambassadors:

- Ensure that the selected high school student ambassadors meet the criteria and expectation for selection.
- Able to travel to and from the 2025 NSLS with the designated high school students.
- Participate in the adult sessions and all other activities at the NSLS, **July 14-17, 2025.**
- Ensure that the selected high school student ambassadors are prepared to participate in their sessions and able to execute what they learned back at their schools.
- Serve as a liaison to the Summit "expert" staff, college facilitators, "Summit content expert," and NFHS staff.
- Follow all NSLS ground rules (including leaving all facilities in as good or better condition than when they arrived).
- Facilitate and support actionable effort of the student ambassadors to accomplish the state's action plan and further develop the student leadership initiative.
- Be able to develop, manage an operational state action plan.



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Each group or subgroup should represent the spectrum of race, cultural backgrounds and socio-economic levels of those with whom they will work. Also, there should be a balance of males and females.

Suggested Criteria For Selection

Overall Selection Criteria for All Ambassadors:

- Be respectful, able and willing to work with students of diverse backgrounds (such as race, cultural, socio-economic levels, academic achievement levels, physical, emotional and mental disabilities).
- Be willing to make a commitment to the NFHS qualities and behaviors expressed in the way the NSLS is conducted. Those beliefs are respect for self and others, positive values, personal accountability, perspective, sportsmanship, teamwork, healthy lifestyles, servant leadership and self-evaluation.
- Carry oneself as a positive role model for fellow student and adult ambassadors.
- Willing to commit the time and effort to accomplish the Summit tasks, including the above-mentioned expectations.
- Possess a sincere interest and desire to help others.
- **Be willing and capable to develop a working action plan that will be implemented by the state association, followed-up and supported by the NFHS.**

Student Ambassadors:

- State associations make all final decisions using their best judgment as to who represents their state at the NSLS.
- Preferably entering grades 10 or 11 in the fall of 2025.
- Participation in athletics and/or performing arts.
- Should have some previous leadership training and/or exposure.
- Shows exemplary behavior.
- Willing to take summit skills and strategies back to school and work with their classmates.
- Should currently participate in an existing Student Advisory Committee or home state has expressed interest in developing a Student Advisory Committee.
- Highly motivated, outgoing and enthusiastic.
- Able to relate to students from a variety of social groups and diverse backgrounds.
- Capable of being an effective presenter to adults and peers.
- Possesses the ability to interact well one-on-one with small groups of students.
- State associations may allow their member schools to submit names of deserving students, perhaps rewarding those students who have shown good sportsmanship, citizenship or leadership in their school and/or community.

- If applicable, identify those students who have received the state association's sportsmanship award; it promotes the state association's award and the NFHS' Summit.
- State associations might organize a selection committee comprised of state association staff, athletic directors, student advisory committee members, board members, advisors, counselors, etc.

Adult Ambassadors:

- Good supervisory skills
- Works well with young adults and adolescents
- Willing to submit to a background check
- Willing to take back Summit information and start a Student Advisory Committee
- Willing to take back Summit information and start a Student Leadership Conference
- Possesses the ability to interact well one-on-one with small groups of students
- Able to relate to students from a variety of social groups and diverse backgrounds
- Highly motivated and enthusiastic
- Experience with high school student leaders and high school athletics and performing arts
- Possesses the ability to creatively think "outside the box"
- Supportive in the belief of student leadership training and engagement



Promotion Ideas

Suggested Communication Outlets to Promote the NSLS:

- State association website
- State association social media
- State association newsletter and/or blog
- Broadcast email to state association member schools
- Local newspaper
- Local media
- Trade publications
- State association sports interpretation meetings
- State association championship athletic venues and publications
- Performing arts championship venues, programs and signage
- State association winter membership meetings or workshops
- State association student advisory committee meetings (share with committee members)





Preliminary NSLS Schedule

Monday, July 14, 2025 (Travel Day)

- 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. Summit Registration for Summit Ambassadors
- 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. Dinner at The Alexander Hotel
- 7:00 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. Leadership in Rhythm
- 7:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. Meet and Greet with NFHS Student Advisory Council
- 7:30 p.m. – 11:30 p.m. Leadership Lounge

Tuesday, July 15, 2025

- 7:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. Breakfast at The Alexander Hotel
- 8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. Late Registration
- 9:15 a.m. – 9:45 a.m. Opening Ceremony, Summit Objectives, Expectations and Directions
- 9:45 a.m. – 10:15 a.m. Opening General Session Speaker
- 10:30 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. Student Ambassador Session 1, Adult Ambassador Session 1 (Summit Q & A, Objectives and Expectations) – Davis Whitfield, NFHS Chief Operating Officer
- 11:45 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Lunch at The Alexander Hotel
- 12:45 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. Student Ambassador Session 2, Adult Ambassador Session 2 – Dr. Curtrell Rhodan, SCHSL Director of Educational Services
- 2:15 p.m. – 2:45 p.m. State Meeting #1 at the Alexander Hotel
- 2:45 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. Load buses, travel to Plainfield High School for Unified Sports Engagement
- 5:50 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. Pizza party at site
- 6:45 p.m. Load buses to return to the hotel
- 8:45 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. Leadership in Rhythm
- 9:30 p.m. States who are not involved with the Leadership in Rhythm experience can take the shuttle back to the satellite hotel

Wednesday, July 16, 2025

- 7:30 a.m. – 8:00 a.m. Breakfast at The Alexander Hotel
- 8:15 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. Student Ambassador Session 3, Adult Ambassador Session 3 – Gary Thrapp, Empathetic and Community Leader
- 9:45 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Student Ambassador Session 4, Adult Ambassador Session 4 – Rich Barton, NIAAA Associate Executive Director of Leadership Training and Certification
- 11:15 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. National Student Advisory Council Activity
- 12:15 p.m. – 12:45 p.m. Lunch at The Alexander Hotel
- 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Growing in Leadership Opportunity (TBD)
- 4:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. General Session Speaker, Jason Michaels, #DoTheImpossible
- 5:45 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. Dinner at The Alexander Hotel
- 6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. Return to hotel room for preparation for evening activities
- 8:30 p.m. – 11:30 p.m. Dance (Finger food, refreshments and sundae bar) (Leadership Lounge is open until 12:00 a.m.) Shuttle to satellite hotel will leave at 12:15 a.m. There will a shuttle available for those states who are not staying at the dance. It will leave at 9:30 p.m.

Thursday, July 17, 2025

- 6:30 a.m. – 7:50 a.m. Breakfast at The Alexander Hotel
- 8:15 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. Closing General Session (Leadership Lounge open 6:30 a.m. – 12:00 noon)

More Scenes From Previous Student Leadership Events



National Federation of State High School Associations
PO Box 690 | Indianapolis, IN 46206
Phone: 317-972-6900 | www.nfhs.org