

PTA Programs and Special Events

As a PTA there are many programs and special events that you can utilize and celebrate big or small in your unit. This section is designed to highlight the bigger National and Missouri PTA events and programs. You'll find both ideals and resources to help make your year a success. For a complete calendar of events, please be sure to check our website calendar each month for up to date information.



FOUNDERS DAY - February 17th

Share our history and promote an understanding of the shared vision and legacy of our founders: Alice McLellan Birney, Selena Sloan Butler and Phoebe Apperson Hearst. Their vision was truly ahead of their time. The creation of PTA was to promote child advocacy and welfare. Their concern and dedication to the nation's children was and still is today truly inspirational.

Happy Birthday PTA! May you live forever and strong!

Take time to reflect & celebrate our accomplishments and renew our commitment to be a powerful voice for all children, a relevant resource for parents, and a strong advocate for public education.

In 1910 Mrs. David O. Mears, one of the original members of the National Congress suggested that Founders Day should always be observed as a significant anniversary by the Congress and everyone concerned with the needs of children and youth. Each year since then PTA members have honored the Founders. Founders Day donations have allowed National PTA and Missouri PTA to ensure ever stronger and more effective local, state, and national parent-teacher action for children.

National Founders Day has been observed by National PTA since 1910 and continues strongly today. Traditionally held on February 17, it is designed to raise awareness of PTA achievements. Many PTA Units and Councils hold yearly celebrations in observance of this day to honor all of the outstanding accomplishments and milestones that PTA has reached. It is an opportunity to examine current concerns and set future goals. With everyone's help we will continue to go forth and make the lives of our nation's children better by working on legislation and advocacy to promote the health and welfare of our youth.

The ways to celebrate are only limited by your imagination. Here are just a few examples of Founders Day activities. Utilize the internet to see what other units and councils are doing across the nation. There is no one “right” way to celebrate.

- Annual dinner hosted by council for PTA unit officers and school district employees.
- A district event that the local units take turns hosting.
- Have birthday cake, invite all the past presidents of the unit and recognize them with a small gift.
- Recognize PTA Hall of Famers (a special principal, teacher, staff member or volunteer) who has made positive differences in the lives of children. You can honor them with a [Missouri PTA Distinguished Service Award](#).
- Donation of a book to the library in honor of someone who exemplifies what PTA stands for.
- Ask local businesses to post “Happy Birthday PTA” on their outside signs.
- Showcase students’ Reflections projects at your meeting/event and don’t forget to make students feel welcome to attend.
- Request your town’s mayor issue a proclamation in honor of PTA’s birthday. Invite him or her to attend the meeting with their family and sign the proclamation during the event.
- Showcase achievements and highlights of your PTA with a Power Point presentation, collage of pictures or scrapbook display. Distribute a list of these achievements and future goals.
- Offer the opportunity to make a freewill donation to your local PTA Scholarship fund or to Missouri PTA. Donations to MO PTA can be easily done by visiting our website and click the Donate with PayPal button (www.mopta.org).
- Have a creative and meaningful way to collect the Founders Day Gifts, i.e. a collection box that looks like a wishing well or school house. Make sure the purpose of the gifts is clearly stated.
- Ask students to create a presentation or video about ways PTA has influenced their education.
- Begin your own local PTA Hall (or wall) of Fame. Honor those that have made significant contributions to your unit. Make a decorative bulletin board that features their pictures and achievements. Begin a tradition that your PTA can add to each year.
- Hold a candle light ceremony in recognition of the founders’ inspiration and to honor past unit presidents’ commitments.
- Ask three female students to dress as our “founding mothers” as part of your event.
- Ask the choir or a band ensemble to perform for your event.

Tips for Planning a Successful Founders Day Event

1. Keep the purpose of the event in the forefront – increase the understanding of the purposed and scope of PTA work on the local, state and national levels.
2. Have a personal understanding of the **history of PTA** and its achievements.
3. Demonstrate how PTA enriches a school and community. Highlight your unit's goals, achievements and activities to showcase the impact and value of PTA in your community.
4. Acknowledge of hard-working volunteers and community partners for their outstanding service to children. Use this opportunity to say thank you to these special individuals and organizations.
5. Engage students in planning and presenting the program. Allow our “future” to help honor our past and present.
6. Include all of your stake holders in the event (students, parents, families, school staff and community partners).
7. Tie your unit’s membership promotion into the event by providing anyone attending a chance to join PTA.

Take Your Family to School Week

Take Your Family to School Week is held during mid-February. This National PTA Program is designed to celebrate the partnership between home and school. Each year National PTA develops a theme used to celebrate the program. Basic steps and promotional tools have been developed to help your units put on a successful event. You can find the complete details on [National PTA's website](#).

National PTA School of Excellence

The National PTA School of Excellence is a recognition program that supports and celebrates partnerships between PTAs and schools to enrich the educational experience and overall well-being for all students. By enrolling in this program your unit will learn new ways to increase family engagement through a customized "Roadmap to Excellence". Enrollment is open to units between April 1st and October 15th. More information about becoming a National PTA School of Excellence is on their [website](#).

Read Across America Day – March 2nd



Read Across America Day is a day sponsored by the National Education Association. It is held every year on March 2nd, to honor Dr. Seuss' birthday. You can develop and carry out a yearlong program that kicks off on this day, or have a special event to celebrate reading and Dr. Seuss' birthday. The National Education Association provides promotional materials accessible from their [Read Across America](#) webpage.

Family Reading Experience



The Family Reading Experience is a National PTA produced program that engages the entire family while focusing on improving the reading skills of children between kindergarten and fifth grade. The program teaches families simple games and activities they can do with their children at home and when parents engage with their children at home, children do better in school. This turn-key program provides everything from a step-by-step Leader's Guide to a survey to share with family's after the event concludes. The full program details can be found on [National PTA's website](#).

Reflections Arts Program



The arts—and the National PTA Reflections program—support student success and serve as a valuable tool for building strong partnerships in your school community. Celebrate arts learning in your school community with Reflections. A student created theme, selected through the Reflections Theme Search Contest, sets the reflection for student artists each year.

Original works of art can be submitted in the categories of dance, choreography, film

production, literature, music composition, photography, and visual arts. All entries are submitted through their local unit to Missouri PTA. First place entries in each arts category and each age division are then sent from the state level to the National Round. The Missouri PTA deadline for Reflections entries is usually early December. Please be sure to check our [website calendar](#) for the exact date for the upcoming school year. Both National PTA and Missouri PTA provide resources to lead your unit through the process. The National PTA toolkit is located on the National PTA page at [Reflections Toolkit](#). Missouri PTA's information can be found at [Reflections](#) on the webpage and is updated annually early each fall.

Distracted Driving Prevention – April



April is Distracted Driving Prevention Month. In today's age with, teens and adults having access to electronic devices all of the time, it is necessary to promote the need to focus on driving and not on your device. Students and adults, face tragic accidents every day, due to someone driving while doing something other than focusing on driving. Encourage your PTSA students to take a pledge. Show the PSA, created

by Missouri PTA students regarding distracted driving.

Child Abuse Prevention – April



While as PTA members we work to better the lives of children, we know that there are children in our cities and towns, our state, our Nation and the World that are still abused in many ways. In the month of April, invite a professional to your school to give a program so that caregivers can recognize the many signs of child abuse.

National Volunteer Week – April

National Volunteer week, is usually held the third week in April. This week is set aside for schools and civic organizations across the US and Canada to honor the work and achievements of volunteers in our schools and communities. Check with your school to see if they have a special celebration for the volunteer efforts done by members of your community.

Teacher Appreciation Week – May

The "T" in PTA stands for Teachers. In May we celebrate Teacher Appreciation week. Since 1984, National PTA has designated the first week in May as Teacher Appreciation Week. You can find awards, grants and many other resources regarding [Teacher Appreciation Week](#) on National's website.



Bullying Prevention Month – October



October is Bullying Prevention Month. During this month, you can promote and implement Connect 4 Respect. [Connect for Respect \(C4R\)](#) is National PTA's initiative to help students, parents and educators to create school climates full of safe and supportive peer relationships.

Research shows that one of the most effective ways to prevent bullying behavior is to create a positive school climate. School climate encompasses everything that contributes to a student's experience with a school—from the physical building to policies, staff and peer culture. Positive school climates exist in schools where students, families and educators all work collaboratively to build a culture of respect.

Use the Connect for Respect (C4R) Toolkit to guide your PTA/PTSA on ways to engage students in improving the school climate and reducing bullying.

Healthy Lifestyles Month – November

In our world today, childhood diseases such as Juvenile Diabetes and Obesity are all too often becoming the norm. In November, have an event, showing kids and families things they can do (even when it is cold outside) to promote a healthy lifestyle. Celebrate with foods that are healthy, snacks and ways to be active. Remember it is what we teach them today that will give them healthy benefits for a lifetime. You can find more information regarding National PTA's Healthy Lifestyles Program including ways to advocate and family-orientated programs such as Fire Up Your Feet on their [website](#).

