

Student Engagement Alternatives

Here is some feedback that we heard from students on what events they are interested in attending/participating in.

- Networking and/or mentorship opportunities with alumni
- Engaging activities with other students including first year through last year students
- Hands-on volunteer events #PayItForward
- Campus Scavenger hunts

Winter Break Engagement: Dinner for Local Buckeyes

2021 Time frame: Dec. 16th through Jan 10th

Future dates to consider: <https://registrar.osu.edu/staff/bigcal.asp>

- How to setup the event:
 - Select a local restaurant where you can reserve a table for alumni and students to mingle.
 - Selecting specific student and alumni to attend the Dinner (Can be Scholarship Recipients or a first come first serve).
 - Submit the Workfront request 1 month before the event.
 - Collect RSVP's, names, and Dietary Restrictions.
 - Cover the cost of the Dinner for the students.
 - Prepare nametags for all of the attendees.
 - Prepare engaging discussion topics (only if needed).
 - Prepare background information of the alumni to the students attending.
 - Conclude the event with a Desert reception.
 - Provide future engagement opportunities for the students who attended.

Things to consider:

- You could provide a speed networking event before the meal.
- Send the invite to all alumni in your area to increase new membership.

Community Service events:

Time Frames to consider: Winter Break, Spring Break, Summer Break.

- How to setup the event:
 - Pick a local non-profit that can host a group of volunteers. (i.e. food pantry, Ronald McDonald House, Making blankets for a shelter or Hospital)
 - Try to select a volunteer activity where people can work in groups and have conversation.
 - Submit your Workfront request for an email and website update, 1 month before the event.
 - Select a group of board members that excel in conversation and student engagement and have those board members work to welcome and include those students when they arrive. (Consider pairing alumni careers with student majors if you ask for them in the RSVP)

- Provide a giveaway/incentive for students that attend (ask your REO)
- Plan a casual event to follow up volunteering where students can further connect with other students and alumni. i.e. ice cream, a small meal, etc. (Do not plan events around alcohol)
- Be prepared to share future opportunities for the student to keep connected with the club.

Virtual/Distanced Engagement:

Time Frame: These events allow for student engagement all year round.

- Event ideas:
 - Ohio State Trivia (Ask your REO)
 - Virtual Escape Room (Search online or ask your REO)
 - Alumni Career Panel – Resumes and cover letters, Post graduate life, how to job search, interview tips (Reach out to your REO and the OSUAA Career Management Office)
 - Buckeye Pan Pal Program
 - Ohio State drawing or art classes
 - Scavenger hunt (see below)

Things to consider:

- If you are charging for an event, consider covering all of the cost for students.
- Send the invite to all alumni in your area to increase new membership.

*Please check with your REO about the proper gift or gift card prior to giving to students to first gain approval from Financial Aid.

Ohio State Campus Scavenger hunt:

- How to setup the event:
 - Have each board member create a list of their favorite restaurants, buildings, and landmarks around Ohio State.
 - Do any board members have any pictures from their time on campus? You could have students replicate those pictures.
 - Narrow down the list to about 10 to 15 specific items/ locations.
 - Pick a prize package for the winning student (ideas: gift card to a local restaurant, t-shirt, pop socket, etc.) *Ask your REO if prizes are appropriate
 - Submit your Workfront request, 2 weeks before the contest begins.
 - Ask students to submit pictures of them with each one to the club email.
 - Be sure to include a deadline about 2 weeks after it starts. (Avoid holiday breaks and finals weeks)

Location/ item Ideas:

- https://www.osu.edu/alumni/uploads/OSAMsu18_State_of_Play.pdf
- The Oval, Brutus at the Union, The Shoe, Mirror Lake, picture with Brutus,

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“Good Luck” Packages:

Time Frame: 2022 Spring Finals – April 27th through May 3rd.

Future dates to consider: <https://registrar.osu.edu/staff/bigcal.asp>

- How to setup the student engagement
 - Organize the information and email information from your clubs recent scholarship recipients and engaged students.
 - Reach out to your REO to let them know that you are planning this opportunity in order to prepare the package delivery process.
 - Recommended: Target Scholarship recipients or a select group of students. (Recommend 20 or less)
 - Prepare the packages for the students – This can include \$10 gift cards, popcorn, candy, handwritten notes, etc. (Please be conscious of potential food allergies)
 - Work with your REO to have the packages delivered to the Ohio State campus so that the students can be emailed notified to pick up the care package.

Things to consider:

- Make the package worth picking up. We recommend providing more than just a \$5 gift card and good luck letter.
- Include information about future events and ways to continue engaging with the alumni club when they have time.

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Shadow an Alum for a Day

Time Frame: Winter Break, Spring Break, Summer Break

- How to Set it up
 - Survey your club membership to see who would be willing to mentor a student for a day.
 - After the responses are collected, each Alum can provide a bio and details about their job.
 - After organizing each name and bio information from the volunteers, compile them for a Workfront request to be emailed to the students from your area.
 - Be sure to submit your Workfront request a month ahead of the break.
 - Collect RSVP's from the students and the mentor/jobs that they are interested in.
 - Have the volunteer reach out just before break and setup a day for shadowing.