

The Collegiate Society of America

- Frequently Asked Questions -

I am going to be a freshman in college this year. I plan on participating in lots of activities and I am registered in challenging courses. I am not sure if I will have enough time to start a CSAmerica chapter or even join an existing chapter. How much time would the process take?

Most students entering their freshman year are concerned with allocating their free time. Experience has taught us that you will have plenty of free time, even more than in high school. In college you will take fewer classes, have less busy work, and you will control your time, doing what you want. Given your new found freedom, you will have more than enough time to start a CSAmerica chapter or to join an existing chapter. Most chapters meet twice a month.

My college campus already has College Democrats, College republicans, Model UN, a forensics/debate team, and a mock trial team. How will I ever find people to join my CSAmerica chapter given these other similar activities?

You will be surprised at how many students who participate in these clubs will also want to be in your CSAmerica chapter. They will be attracted to the opportunity to challenge the views of others using CSAmerica's friendly debate format, in addition to the national CSAmerica projects (e.g. voter registration and education efforts) and CSAmerica regional and national conventions. There are many students who participated in civic participation programs while in high school and would love to participate in a similar programs at the collegiate level. We have also seen the CSAmerica program attract students who are put off by partisan politics, but like our welcoming forum for debate and discussion.

I was in the Junior State of America in high school. It was a lot of fun— we got together, yelled a lot, and got to go to really cool conventions where there were lots of students and fun dances. But JSA seems so high school, and now I am in college. Is CSAmerica just college JSA?

CSAmerica has aspects that are very similar to JSA, such as our debate component. But, CSAmerica has been designed for college students, by college students. Many new doors open at the collegiate level as college students can vote and take a more active role in our democratic process than high school students can. In particular, CSAmerica focuses on voter participation and registration among college students. As well as fighting the political apathy present on college campuses through improved civic education for college students. We hope to expand the CSAmerica program in the future including an internship program and other college specific aspects. CSAmerica was started by JSA alums and many of the founding members of CSAmerica chapters nationwide were once in JSA, but CSAmerica is not affiliated with the Junior Statesmen Foundation.

I want to get more involved with CSAmerica. How is this possible?

The best way of getting involved with CSAmerica is to join a CSAmerica chapter and become involved with CSAmerica on your campus. If your school does not yet have a CSAmerica chapter, then you should start one. If you are interested in an administrative roll, apply to join the CSAmerica Cabinet, which is the current governing body of CSAmerica along with the CSAmerica Council. You can do this on the CSAmerica website, www.csamerica.org.

I want to increase membership in our chapter and spread awareness about CSAmerica. We have posted some flyers, but is there any other way that we can market ourselves on campus and compete with the clubs that have long standing reputations?

One of our main goals as a growing organization was to create a comprehensive marketing plan that can be utilized by every chapter. In our online Toolkit, you will find a marketing tutorial as well as many other advertising materials that will aid you in this process. Visit www.csamerica.org/toolkit.html for many innovative marketing tips and instructions on how to market your chapter.



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