

Ideas for Affiliate Chapters

Once an Advocacy Chapter is formed, Chapter Presidents often come to PAGE asking for ideas of the types of activities that these Affiliates do within their school district. In one of the Regional Meetings of Affiliate Leaders at our Fall Leadership Workshop a few years ago, we composed the following list.

- Have a covered dish supper and get to know one another.
- Buy group tickets and carpool to a cultural event.
- Plan and schedule a guest speaker on some aspect of gifted education.
- Write letters of advocacy to your elected officials.
- Write letters of advocacy to your officials in the State Department of Education.
- Attend School Board Meetings.
- Make speeches at School Board Meetings in support of something good the District is trying to do even though it is not related to "Gifted Education."
- Plan and organize a scavenger hunt with the children.
- Investigate the possibility of sponsoring an "Olympics of the Mind" competition in your school community.
- Plan and conduct a "Creativity Night."
- Plan and conduct a "SuperSaturday."
- Raise funds to send two of your members to the annual PAGE State Conference.
- Read and report on current literature related to Gifted Education.
- Buy books on gifted for your local library.
- Volunteer to help the teacher of the Gifted with class projects.
- Volunteer in your child's school.
- Volunteer to keep the school computing center open at night.
- Ask your school guidance counselor or psychologist to discuss the social/emotional needs of gifted children.
- AND ABOVE ALL ELSE, serve on district committees and get to know as many of the people working for your school district as possible. Develop a network of people who do not see you as "the enemy," but rather as helpers "outside the system" who can help THEM attain their goals of better education for all children, including gifted children.

As my father-in-law, who was a very beloved employee of a local school district told me many years ago when I first started my advocacy work:

*****YOU CATCH MORE FLIES WITH HONEY THAN WITH VINEGAR!*****

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- Revelly Paul