

ADA American
Dental
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advocate for oral health

INFOpak

2010

ADA Activities for your ASDA Chapter

OFFICE OF STUDENT AFFAIRS

studentaffairs@ada.org
800 621.8099 x7470

ASDA/ADA Student Membership is just the beginning

The ADA is for all dentists and students working towards a D.D.S. or D.M.D. Predoctoral members of ASDA are also student members of the American Dental Association and are eligible for ADA benefits, including all the benefits and resources developed specifically to meet the needs of a dental student. Find a comprehensive list of benefits in the booklet [ADA Resources for the Dental Student Member](#), which you can download at www.ada.org/458.aspx.

For more information on your ASDA/ADA Student Member benefits visit www.asdanet.org and click on the “Member Resources” tab.

You are always welcome to contact the ADA Office of Student Affairs at 312.440.7470 or studentaffairs@ada.org.

Get involved in organized dentistry at all levels

Understanding the Tripartite

For more than 90 years, the ADA together with the state and local dental societies has functioned as a three-tiered system called the tripartite. While retaining their autonomy as dental associations, the national, state (constituent) and local (component) organizations work together for members.

Dental students join ASDA and the ADA directly, but they may also be eligible for membership in their local and state dental societies, depending upon the location of the dental school. Contact your [local](#) or [state](#) dental societies for more information on options in your state.

Local—the Component level

One of the best ways to learn more about and get involved with organized dentistry is at the local level. Attend a meeting of a local dental society. Forming a relationship with real-world dentists can help you learn about employment and volunteer opportunities in your area and stay informed about local issues affecting dentistry. These meetings can be a place to ask nuts-and-bolts questions like, “Which lab do you like?” or, “I haven’t found an accountant who understands dentistry, do you have any suggestions?” Your local society may also offer leadership and volunteer opportunities for students. If you’re an ASDA leader or aspire to be, don’t pass up the chance to connect with your local component.

Even if you plan to practice somewhere other than the location where you attend dental school, it can be valuable to attend a local meeting to gain a better understanding of how organized dentistry operates at the ground level.

Find contact information for your local component at www.ada.org/localorganizations.aspx.

State—the Constituent level

Visiting your state society headquarters can be a valuable learning experience. Plan in advance—you may be able to sit in on a meeting, tour the office, and learn about statewide issues affecting dentistry.

Many state societies have a New Dentist Committee that works to make sure your voice is heard—ask staff for more information about activities for new dentists.

Find contact information for your state society at www.ada.org/stateorganizations.aspx.

The ADA—the National level

Student members can visit ADA headquarters when in Chicago to see the lab, the library, and the member service center, among other locations that work for dentistry at the national level. Contact the ADA Office of Student Affairs at 1.800.621.8099, x7470 to schedule a tour. Members are also welcome to tour the ADA's Washington D.C. office to learn more about the ADA's legislative efforts. Call 202.898.2400 to schedule a visit.

The ADA Committee on the New Dentist (CND) works to make sure that the voice of the new dentist is heard throughout organized dentistry. The CND produces a variety of resources for recent graduates, and hosts the annual ADA New Dentist Conference. For more information about the ADA New Dentist Conference visit www.ada.org/goto/newdentconf.

Every autumn, the ADA hosts the largest dental meeting in the world—the ADA Annual Session. If you are working on your D.D.S. or D.M.D., we'd like for you to attend as our guest—registration for students is free! Meet your colleagues from around the world, attend CE, visit the exhibition hall, and have a good time. Find more information, or to sign up, visit www.ada.org/goto/session.

ADPAC—Dentistry's Political Action Committee

ADPAC works to elect congressional candidates who understand the importance of dentistry and the connection between oral health and overall health. ADPAC is non-partisan and supports candidates who will be strong advocates for dentists and the patients they serve.

ADPAC also provides educational opportunities for dentists who are interested in running for public office at the local, state and national levels.

Student Membership in ADPAC is only \$5. Contact your ASDA Legislative Grassroots Network (LGN) representatives to sign up. The school with the largest yearly ADPAC membership wins a \$500 award at ASDA Annual Session! For more information on ADPAC visit www.ada.org/advocacy.aspx.

On-Campus Activities

ADPAC Lunch & Learn (formerly Pizza & Politics)

ADPAC offers 60-minute lunchtime presentations (length, time and format may be tailored to specific needs), which inform students about the impact of government policy and politics. The program encourages active participation in the political process both now and upon completion of dental school. The Lunch & Learns are administered by ADPAC, who will provide you with a speaker. For more information, including a Lunch & Learn start-up kit, call 202-898-2424 or e-mail govtpol@ada.org.

Local and State Society Opportunities

If your chapter does not have an established relationship with your state or local society, it's easy to begin building one. Simply contact the society staff or volunteer leaders and ask them to visit your school. You could invite them to:

- Participate in an ASDA chapter meeting
- Host a lunch and learn

- Attend an already scheduled Success program
- Invite a new dentist volunteer to talk about starting a practice
- Speak about current legislative issues in the state, such as licensure or compliance

It's okay to invite your local and state societies to participate in on-campus events at different times. While the associations often work together, sometimes it's easier for the local society to visit the school more often, depending on the location of the dental school. The key is to start the relationship and maintain it.

Success Dental Student Programs

Four programs, one targeted to each year of dental school. From exploring career options, to negotiating salaries, the Success Dental Student Programs provide important information from real-world dentists. Programs are free to schools and students, and every program is available to every dental school every year. Find more information about the programs at www.ada.org/455.aspx, and to schedule a program, contact the ADA Office of Student Affairs at 1.800.621.8099, x7470 or studentaffairs@ada.org.

ADA Volunteer Resources

ADA International Volunteer Website

The ADA International Volunteer website allows you to search for volunteer projects by organization, location, program type and affiliation. Find information about how to select a program, how to prepare for your trip, and what to expect upon your return home. Visit <http://internationalvolunteer.ada.org> to begin.

Give Kids a Smile®

Give Kids A Smile® is the ADA's signature access to oral health care outreach program. By promoting free, annual service events at locations across the country the ADA aims to encourage parents, health professionals and policymakers to address important access to care issues. Dental professionals participating in Give Kids A Smile provide educational materials, screenings and, free dental care such as cleanings, X-rays and fillings to children. In 2009, more than 450,000 children were treated by some 45,000 dental professionals at more than 1,600 sites nationwide. Learn more Give Kids A Smile® at www.ada.org/3152. To participate, visit www.ada.org/1588.

National Children's Dental Health Month

Each February, the American Dental Association (ADA) sponsors National Children's Dental Health Month to raise awareness about the importance of oral health. ASDA Chapters can participate by volunteering to give presentations on oral health care at local schools. The ADA has free online resources that can help you and your chapter with oral health presentations, ideas for the classroom and coloring and activity sheets that can be used as handouts. These resources can be found at www.ada.org/2714.aspx. They also have booklets, videos and other materials available for purchase through the [ADA Catalog](#).

Please direct all questions to ncdhm@ada.org.

Additional ADA Resources

ADA International Dental Volunteer Guide

The guide is free to ADA members and available to nonmembers for a fee of \$20. Request a copy by calling 312.440.2726 or e-mailing international@ada.org.

ADA Volunteer Brochure

This brochure describes volunteer opportunities for dental professionals. Request a copy by contacting the ADA Office of Student Affairs at 312.440.7470 or studentaffairs@ada.org.