

Platform Examples

SACOT Founders Conference
October 23-24, 2016

Title: Legislative Presence

Goal(s): To ensure that the TX legislature knows that SACOT exists and that there are a tremendous number of HS students who care about STEM. Also, to help educate the legislators about STEM issues in the state.

Description: The members of SACOT meet with their representatives periodically to educate them about the STEM issues that they find important.

Our Actions: Each member of SACOT schedules meetings with their representatives (either on Capitol Hill or at their local office, or even through video).

Example: We are all meeting with legislators later today in order to tell them about SACOT.

Title: Promotion of a Bill

Goal(s): To promote a certain bill in the Texas Legislature that SACOT wants to pass, while also educating legislative members about SACOT and STEM issues.

Description: The members of SACOT meet with their representatives to educate them on a certain bill, and advocate for their support on that bill.

Our Actions: Each member of SACOT schedules meetings with their representatives (either on Capitol Hill or at their local office, or even through video) to make them aware about a certain bill, and attempts to ensure that we can get their support on the bill by describing their personal connection and impact on the community.

Example: Spreading awareness of HB 5, a bill that changes the STEM scene by talking to our local members of Congress about why they should support it, and what it specifically does.

Title: Initiation of a Bill/Law

Goal(s): To cause particular legislation to be initiated and even turned into law.

Description: There will be SACOT platform goals that don't currently have bills in front of the legislature. For specific instances of these goals SACOT will work with legislators to help them craft and push a bill through the legislative process. SACOT members will be intimately involved with the legislative process and their local legislators.

Our Actions: Members of SACOT will come up with an idea that they would like to see be made into law, and then find a legislative sponsor. SACOT will then work with the sponsor to craft the bill to be filed. Members will then work on lobbying by setting up meetings with their representatives (either on Capitol Hill or at their local office, or even through video) to garner support for the bill, in order to get it out of committee and passed into a law.

Example: Last year was the first time that we had Texas State UIL Robotics, an amazing feat on its own. However, many teams were not able to attend, many because they did not wish to spend money on travel and hotel costs that they would require. To fix this, we could add an amendment to the creation of Texas State UIL Robotics that pays for the cost that would be required for Texas teams to attend the UIL Robotics championship.

Title: Localized Solutions

Goal(s): To fix a STEM-related problem that is focused in a specific area in Texas

Description: SACOT members will work towards creating a solution to a specific problem in a local community in Texas. The problem is defined as something that has a viable and tangible solution and that if solved would have a large impact on the local community.

Our Actions: First members of SACOT will research what has already been done to solve the problem, and see if they are able to expand on already existing solutions in the area. Then they will create a detailed multi-step plan for solving the problem that a local community has. After that members will execute on this plan by employing help from other SACOT members, and contacting authorities in the local community, such as a school board, city representatives, local businesses, and other local representatives.

Example: As we have already heard in McAllen, many students in the area do not have access to Internet. The problem that we can solve is their lack of access to the Internet, which we could solve by creating community centers that provide free access to the Internet that students could use. Before creating a plan to create entirely new infrastructure for this, we could instead look up local areas that already offer this and instead raise awareness for those areas as our detailed plan. However if we find that there is nothing that already exists to solve the problem in the community, we would create our own plan to create the infrastructure that they will require, by contacting a combination of the McAllen school board, local businesses in the city, and representatives in the community.

Title: Corporate Funding/Sponsorship

Goal(s): To raise funds from corporations in order to provide for SACOT costs.

Description: Members of SACOT would reach out to a business and set up a meeting in order to attempt to gain funding for SACOT. These businesses will be focused in the STEM area, and set to provide either direct funding or some other type of sponsorship to SACOT members.

Our Actions: SACOT members will first identify a company that is already involved in the STEM industry, and plan what we would like them to do for SACOT (direct funding or sponsorship through another method). Then we will reach out to the company and schedule a meeting to directly ask for what SACOT wants, and continue to follow through until we receive a clear response on whether the company is willing to provide funding/sponsorship.

Example: An example of this would be contacting Intel and asking them to provide a facility for Winter STEM camps that we would like to staff and host.