**Ideas for a Successful and Engaging SkillsUSA Chapter**

**During a Covid19-Impacted and Alternative 2020-21 School Year**

**Have Meetings!**

*Combination present/virtual. Even if all students are not “present” during that period. Or total virtual.*

* Utilize a Virtual meetings platform! Might be a way to engage even MORE students than you normally can! Students will need a means to “belong” to something, especially now.
* Virtual meetings will present an opportunity for students to become part of the local chapter that may not be able to attend otherwise. Meeting times will be determined after the school year starts and things begin to settle down.
* Dual Meetings. Meet with students who are present, in smaller groups or teams, based on the rotation of present students. The teams then collaborate with each other.

**Community Service Projects** –

*Be creative to find ways of doing a project “as a team” without being in-person as a group:*

* Letter-writing campaign to Essential Workers / Medical Workers.
* Instead of picking up items for a food drive, students might place drop-off containers in easy-to-access locations, such as parking lots, where donations could be collected without direct contact among individuals. These same guidelines would apply to fundraisers as well.
* Students could record read alouds to be posted on social media for preschool children
* Virtually tutor elementary students
* Produce public service announcements
* Participate in appropriately socially distanced outdoor cleanups
* Conduct online or drop-off supply drives or fundraisers for important community needs
* Donate their emerging skills to those in need, virtually or with minimal personal contact.

**Advocacy & Marketing –**

*Here is where they can utilize their Social Media platform – great way for everyone to stay connected and communicate while honoring social distancing.*

* Use your social media to recruit your members and keep them connected.
* Create social media messages and utilize students to post them on social media.

**Financial Management –**

*Chapter Budgets can still be put together whether in person or virtually.*

* As for fundraising, this year is a great time to utilize things like Double Good Popcorn fundraiser where everything is done electronically or maybe you have some type of virtual action to raise money.

**Leadership Development -**

*As we have learned/seen, professional development can still be done whether in person or virtually. Now is the perfect time to devote to learning the Framework skills with all the available resources:*

* Ignite
* Career Essentials: Foundations
* Career Essentials: Experiences
* Jump Into STEM!
* Many more
* Make this an integral part of each chapter meeting

**Partner & Alumni Engagement –**

* Consider doing like we are with our monthly meetings and have advisors/student members do this with their Alumni & Business & Industry partners.
* Good time to form Advisory committees with these individuals to build relationships
* Utilize them as guest speakers.

**Workplace Experiences –**

* Here we could do some virtual mock interviews – (these have been taking place long before COVID-19) and what about a Virtual Employer Panel Discussion
* Contact local employers that would be willing to engage in a virtual conference with our chapter members for tips with the application process and interviews with emphasis placed on what the employer is looking for. Also question resume criteria. There are different ideas of what needs to be in a resume.