

Membership Expectations

As a member of Students for Education Reform, you, your chapter and your coalition are exercising your commitment to furthering SFER's mission of organizing college students to fight for better educational outcomes for all kids. As our understanding of organizing work deepens and your experience in the field drives toward impact, we have a better understanding of what it takes to really build toward systemic change in our schools. Based on our work on campuses and in the community, state captains and national staff have identified that your commitment to the following actions will lead to high-impact action, strong coalitions and sustainable chapters:

- (1) A commitment to serving as a “culture warrior,” embodying the core values central to this movement: Voice, Audacity & Humility, Dignity, Growth, Tenacity and Collaborative Leadership
- (2) A commitment to building a diverse base of students that is representative of the communities that we are fighting with and for.
- (3) A commitment to mobilizing college students as a powerful force for change, and working with community members to organize toward action.
- (4) A commitment to being active and responsive in communicating and working with national staff and members of your chapter and coalition.
- (5) A commitment to managing up; being proactive, solutions-oriented, and resourceful as your chapter and this national movement grow to have a greater impact in this fight for better outcomes for all kids.

A MEMBER...

Is truly committed to our mission, core values and statement of principles. Given this commitment, our members make consistent efforts to embody chapter, coalition and national membership expectations.

MEMBERS ARE EXPECTED TO:

- Vote in local, state and national elections, if a legal citizen
- Attend the majority of chapter and coalition-wide events, as defined by chapter and coalition leadership
- Build relationships with community and campus partners
- Lead chapter and coalition programming that builds awareness and facilitates action on campus and in the community
- Complete the national membership database survey

MEMBERS HAVE ACCESS TO:

- SFER Membership newsletter
- Leadership and professional development through campus and coalition activities
- Network of local college students, partners and change-makers, who are collectively fighting for change in the community

AN EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER...

Is responsible for working with the chapter's leadership team to develop vision, goals and programming for the chapter. This individual is resourceful, scrappy and maintains a solutions-oriented mindset. Their growth mindset ensures strong leadership and increased chapter capacity. They champion "democratizing knowledge" by sharing resources and opportunities with members. As leaders of their chapters, executive board members commit to spending significant time on SFER work outside of meetings.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS ARE EXPECTED TO:

- Build relationships with community and campus partners
- Actively recruit, develop, and mentor a diverse set of leaders to build student power on campus
- Develop membership and chapter expectations; hold members accountable to expectations
- Delegate the bulk of programming tasks to members, leaving room for greater strategic planning and mentorship
- Contribute to relentless chapter strategic planning that includes goals and metrics for semester, year and long-term development

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS HAVE ACCESS TO:

- SFER Membership newsletter
- Leadership and professional development through campus and coalition activities
- Network of local college students, partners and change-makers, who are collectively fighting for change in the community

A CHAPTER LEADER...

Serves on the executive board and carries all such responsibilities of an E-board member. They possess an executive mindset by exhibiting the ability to attend to short-term tasks while working toward long-term goals. As the main leader of their chapter, they possess the resolve to build a strong chapter and student base. Chapter leaders have an entrepreneurial attitude and demonstrate an ability to come up with creative, resourceful solutions to tough challenges in their chapter.

CHAPTER LEADERS ARE EXPECTED TO:

- Develop strong relationships with the executive board members, general body members, coalition leaders and other chapter leaders
- Serve as an open line of communication for members between: executive board members, other chapters, coalition leaders, national staff, campus partners and community partners
- Lead the executive board team in larger organizational health and strategic planning, including the development of sustainable structures
- Set semester expectations for executive board members and holds them accountable to responsibilities
- Help coordinate and delegate coalition action with other chapters and leaders
- Communicate leadership transitions to the national organization
- Communicate with someone from national team (student leaders or staff) once a month
- Ensure that all chapter expectations are met

CHAPTER LEADERS HAVE ACCESS TO:

- SFER Membership newsletter & resource portal
- Leadership and professional development through campus, coalition and national activities, like the SFER national summit
- Network of local college students, partners and change-makers, who are collectively fighting for change in the community
- Support and mentorship from a national student leader or staff member

A CHAPTER...

Chapters are SFER's presence on each campus and function as strong student-led organized bodies. They are connected to a network of other chapters within their state to form regional and state coalitions. Chapters have at least five general members that attend weekly meetings to plan and attend programming, increase policy knowledge, and build organizing and leadership skills. To ensure chapter growth and our commitment to diversity, chapters actively recruit students from marginalized communities, particularly students of color, first-generation college students and students from low-income communities.

CHAPTERS ARE EXPECTED TO:

- Be recognized on campus as a student organization
- Have an executive board of 3+ people (including chapter leaders) that meets weekly;
 - Has positions that cover the following vital chapter functions: chapter health (recruitment, member training, leadership transitions), policy, community & campus outreach, organizing actions
- Have clear leadership transition plan to ensure ongoing health of chapter
- Holds at least one awareness event per semester that exposes larger student population and/or local community to issues of educational inequity
- Provide student representation at a local or statewide policy-oriented community event at least once a month (school board, town hall)
- Send at least two members to each coalition-wide SFER event, including city or state summits. If two members do not attend the local summit, the chapter is not eligible to attend national summit
- Receive media coverage in at least one news outlet or publication each year (op-ed in campus paper, action covered in local news, etc.)
- Participates in or leads at least one action that drives toward policy change a year
- Upholds national principals in policy issue choice and action