



NEXT-GENERATION
P O L I T I C S

NEW LEADER GUIDE



Next Generation Politicians,

Thank you for your interest in Next Generation Politics! My name is Ryan Adell, and I founded NGP in 2016. After noticing that a large portion of our generation (Gen Z) feels indifferent, distanced, and, in some cases, horrified by politics, I decided to initiate change. We are politics without the “politics,” or, in other words, without the extreme polarization and hostility. As a nonpartisan organization, NGP doesn’t take a side. Rather, we seek to promote civic engagement, valuable discourse, and, ultimately, provide a platform to find common ground among varying viewpoints.

Next Generation Politics is a coalition of students, educators, and elected officials from across the world. We share a common goal of ensuring our members are politically informed and equipped with developed opinions in order to have an effective hand in government. As you move through this packet, you will read about the various events we host, partnerships we’ve made, and leadership opportunities we provide.

By joining the Next Generation Politics movement, you will be an influential force in uniting Generation Z. As we discuss, deliberate, and debate with one another, we’ll be preparing ourselves to lead the Next Generation into a prosperous future - a future where we work together to solve problems.

Let’s put traditional politics aside and choose to partake in the Next Generation of Politics.

I’m looking forward to working with all of you!

Thanks,
Ryan Adell
Next Generation Politics Founder



ABOUT NEXT GENERATION POLITICS

Next Generation Politics was founded by a group of politically-minded high school students who strive to involve today's youth in the political process. By connecting students with elected officials and other students, NGP fosters political discussion and empowers students with political knowledge. Next Generation Politics is a coalition of students, educators, and elected officials who all share the common goal of facilitating political discussion among young people, as well as between them and their elected representatives. We hope to ensure that no young person feels indifferent to or distanced from politics. Members of NGP can attend events, organize forums and debates, and even start their own chapters. However, our end purpose remains to ensure that our generation (Generation Z) is politically informed and equipped with strong and developed opinions in order to have an effective hand in government.

Since NGP is a nonpartisan group, we provide members with multiple perspectives across all issues. This is achieved by hosting events with students and elected officials from various political parties and points of view. Next Generation Politics prides itself on consistently welcoming individuals who hold various perspectives.

Every day, our government makes decisions that will shape the futures of young people. Our objective at Next Generation Politics is to engage our generation in the political spectrum so they do not passively stand by when these decisions are being made. We facilitate the formation of developed opinions among our members through various events, programs, and activities, and we ensure that these opinions are voiced to elected officials through our forums. In the 21st century it is absolutely essential that our Generation is politically informed and active.



WHAT IS AN NGP CHAPTER?

An NGP Chapter takes the form of a club at a high school. Each chapter has 2-3 Chapter Leaders and together, along with chapter members, chapters organize and host forums, student debates, and any other event that promotes civic engagement. Each chapter has an advisor and hosts regular meetings. Recruitment for chapters operate just as any school club (flyers, announcements, etc.). **If there is an issue with starting the chapter in the form of a club at your school, contact Ryan Adell and he will work with you.**

EVENTS

Each chapter is expected to host at least one event per semester (half year). This can be, but is not limited to, a forum with an elected official, student debate, or political discussion. Please see the section about events in this guide for additional suggestions. Before organizing your chapter's event, email a brief proposal to your State Director for approval.

MEMBERSHIP

After your chapter's inaugural year, you will be expected to have a minimum of 10 individuals signed up under 'get involved' on our website, nextgenpolitics.org, as members. We will give your chapter one year to grow and recruit.

CHAPTER LEADER MEETINGS

The 2-3 chapter leaders of each chapter are expected to have a meeting once every two to three weeks to discuss event planning, recruitment, upcoming general meetings, etc. This can be an in-person meeting or a videoconference. Please report any significant updates to your State Director.



GENERAL MEMBER MEETINGS

Chapter leaders will host at least one general member meeting per month. These meetings will serve as an opportunity to update members of any future events, brainstorm for future activities and events, and discuss recruitment, potential partnerships, or any other ideas. Contact your State Director if you would like him or her to attend your meeting via videoconference or in-person.

HOW TO START A CHAPTER

Once you decide that you want to lead your own NGP Chapter, contact your State Director with a brief introduction and indicate your name, grade and high school. If you do not have a State Director, contact NGP International Director, Ryan Adell, and provide him with this information. The email addresses of the leaders within NGP are available on our website, nextgenpolitics.org. After you do this, you will receive additional information via email. You will also be connected to all other Chapter Leaders, State Directors and National Officers where you can ask questions and learn more about Next Generation Politics.

ORGANIZING AN EVENT

Organizing an event, whether that be a forum, a debate, or anything between, is not as complicated as it seems. Below you will find several types of events your chapter or state association can host. You are not limited to the list below, and if you have a new idea for an event, contact your State Director and propose your idea; you will most likely be able to host it! Also, always know that neighboring chapters, your State Director, or anyone on the national or international level of NGP is always ready to help you in planning and organizing your event.



FORUMS

A Next Generation Politics forum is a group of 10+ NGP members meeting with an elected official on any level of government and/or candidates for office, former elected officials, prominent speakers, analysts, or scholars. Students will field their questions to this individual, discuss various topics, and have a discussion. Forums can take place in a classroom or auditorium at your school, public library community rooms, firehouses, American Legion centers, VFW halls, the conference rooms of the elected official's office, or even via videoconference. Simply email or call the individual you hope to host a forum with and be persistent! Sometimes you will need to send multiple emails, or make multiple phone calls in order to receive a response. Contact International Director, Ryan Adell, if you are having trouble contacting or finding potential speakers for your forum.

DEBATES

NGP Debates are structured differently depending on the number of participants and topics, but they are typically held in a public library auditorium or school auditorium. In addition, local elected officials can be invited to judge the debate. Topics may vary from local to national and international issues. Contact your State Director if you need help in structuring your debate.

MOCK ELECTION

A Mock Election competition is another form of an event that your chapter can host. This competition involves participants "running" for different levels of elected office by making short speeches on predetermined topics. Audience members or judges will vote on the winner of each round until only two participants remain; the two finalists, who are both "running" for the



highest office of the competition, will then engage in a debate on a predetermined topic, and a winner will then be decided. The structure of your Mock Election competition is largely up to you and will depend on your chapter's preferences and the number of expected participants. If you find sponsors (local businesses, donations, etc) you may give out prizes to the winners of the Mock Election.

MOCK LEGISLATIVE SESSION

A Mock Legislative Session is a group of NGP members (typically 10+) coming together in a classroom, local library conference room or similar location, and acting as a mock legislative body. The group could be acting as their county or state legislature, a national legislative body, or any other level of government. Participants may discuss current pieces of legislation or draft their own. Local elected officials may be invited to the event to provide input and review drafted pieces of legislation.

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

A roundtable discussion is structurally different from a debate because participants will be focused on finding common ground between differing viewpoints, instead of debating differing viewpoints. Roundtable discussions are very flexible in their organization, and can be hosted in a variety of different ways. They could be hosted at any location a forum may be held at. Next Generation Politics roundtable discussions typically consist of 5+ students coming together to discuss various topics of local or national importance. You may host this event with a limited number of participants on a stage, with the rest as audience members observing, or without an audience. You also may invite elected officials and/or teachers to partake in the discussion or you may limit the discussion to students only.



COMMUNITY EVENTS

Aside from hosting your own events, Next Generation Politics also encourages its chapters to engage in community events. Examples of this could be chapter members attending and participating in local meetings of their county or city legislature or engaging in local town halls and other political events.

VOTER REGISTRATION DRIVE

The purpose of an NGP Voter Registration Drive is to register as many eligible high schools students to vote as possible. Next Generation Politics strives to raise the young political voice, and the first step in doing that is to ensure young people are registered to vote. A voter registration drive can be hosted in conjunction with your school or the office of a local elected official, and they can be held at your school or other community areas. At the event, you can provide refreshments, play music, or even have guest speakers while students fill out voter registration forms.

FUNDRAISERS

You may host fundraisers to raise money for your chapter or for a charitable cause. Next Generation Politics cares about building better communities, and we highly value chapters that host charitable fundraisers. The logistics and organization of these fundraisers will depend on the specific situation and needs of your chapter. Please do not hesitate to reach out to anyone on the state or national level of NGP for help in hosting a fundraiser.

This is not an exhaustive list! Feel free to reach out to individuals on the state and national NGP team with ideas for events not covered in this guide!



NEXT GENERATION POLITICS LEADERSHIP

INTERNATIONAL DIRECTOR: Ryan Adell is the Founder and International Director of Next Generation Politics. The International Director manages operations, develops strategies, creates short and long term plans for NGP and leads all National and State Directors.

NATIONAL DIRECTORS: A National Director of Next Generation Politics is responsible for coordinating all State Directors within his or her country. A National Director will also lead expansion efforts into new states, pursue national level partnerships, and spearhead new initiatives and plans for his or her country.

NATIONAL OFFICERS: A National Officer may be appointed to lead a specific operation within his or her country. These operations may include, but are not limited to, social media, communications, recruitment, event planning, partnerships, fundraising, or website development.

STATE DIRECTORS: A State Director of Next Generation Politics is responsible for leading all Regional Directors within his or her state and ensuring all chapters remain active. A State Director will also lead expansion into new regions of his or her state, pursue new partnerships, appoint state officers, and organize and host state-wide events.

STATE OFFICERS: A State Officer may be appointed to lead a specific operation within his or her state. These operations may include, but are not limited to, social media, communications, recruitment, event planning, partnerships, or fundraising.

REGIONAL DIRECTORS: A Regional Director will help lead the chapters in his or her county or city. Regional Directors will confirm that chapter leaders are active, recruit and help establish new chapters, and organize regionally based events. A Regional Director may also be a Chapter Leader within his or her high school chapter.

CHAPTER LEADERS: Each Next Generation Politics Chapter may have up to three Chapter Leaders. These Chapter Leaders will be responsible for recruiting new members, hosting events and general meetings, and maintaining communication with their Regional and State Directors.

PARTNERS

Since Next Generation Politics initiated in 2016, it has made several partnerships. Below is a list of some of our partners. If you have a question about how we work with any of these groups, or how you can use their resources for your own endeavors within NGP, please reach out to Ryan Adell.



ATLAS BUSINESS JOURNAL

THE ATLAS BUSINESS JOURNAL



PROJECT VETPRENEUR

PROJECT VETPRENEUR



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS



HUNTINGTON YOUNG REPUBLICANS



SUFFOLK COUNTY DEMOCRATS



THE KETTERING FOUNDATION



JUNIOR STATE OF AMERICA



AMERICAN COUNCIL OF YOUNG POLITICAL LEADERS



NATIONAL SPEECH AND DEBATE ASSOCIATION

Thank you for reading this guide! All of us at Next Generation Politics are looking forward to working with you as you develop a chapter, or lead a regional, state or national association of Next Generation Politics. Together we will unite our generation and ensure that all young people are politically informed and active! As we move forward, please contact us with any questions!