

ALD Chapter Programming Ideas

Chapter Programming — strive to create “signature” ALD events on campus – to stand out, be known for something no other club does, and to support academic success.

Promotional Activities

Summer Orientation – Work with your Orientation/New Student organizations on campus to add a study guide or other ALD promo piece to the welcome packets for first year students joining your campus.

Move-In Day – Wear ALD T-Shirts and assist new students and their families with moving into their dorms to help promote ALD. This is a great start up team building exercise for your members.

Fall Activity Fairs – Tabling at your orientation, job and financial aid fairs along with student clubs and other organization information sessions held at the beginning of the school year for all new incoming students. Promotes ALD and a great team builder for members.

Freshman Seminars/ First Year Experience classes – Request time in seminars to give a short information session on what it takes to succeed as a first-year student and how ALD can be a part of your success and future. Great opportunity to begin volunteering and creating a tutoring network for first year success.

Membership Activities

Guest Speakers at Meetings - So many resources right on campus: Career Development (tips for resumes and cover letters; mock job interviews); Scholarship Office, Study-Abroad Office, Academic Support Center, Counseling Center (dealing with stress). Also seek out your student activities office and ask about leadership development workshops. Invite one of their workshop facilitators to your meeting, or as a group attend a workshop they offer.

Sleep Resources - One of the most important factors influencing student success.

- Host workshops for members or open to all on campus
- Passive - Fact sheets about fatigue and its effect on success, general sleep tips flyers
- List of the best nap spots on campus
- Giveaway ear plugs and eye masks – with ALD logo, website, etc

Faculty Appreciation Reception - Description of Activity: A reception with ALD members and faculty, plus invited Deans and other administration. It’s an opportunity to recognize faculty and thank them for their impact on student success, to highlight Alpha Lambda Delta, and to bring the members together. This can be a great “signature” program for ALD – it’s academic in nature and promotes a positive image of the honor society.

Cost: \$100 for light refreshments (perhaps can get Academic or Student Affairs to co-sponsor and pay for)

Planning Time: Three (3) months

People and Resources: ALD officers and members solicit local businesses and ask for donations. (Student bookstores seemed to be quite willing to donate university items such as shirts, book bags, and caps.) Letters sent to the businesses plenty of time in advance, and the items collected prior to the event.

Important Steps:

- Solicit local businesses for donations of goods and gift certificates.
- Pick an event for the silent auction where a large number of people will attend.
- Set up tables in a square shape so people can walk around the tables to view the items and make bids. This will also provide a center to your area, so workers can watch the tables.
- Place a description of each donation at the top of separate pieces of notebook paper.
- Display donations if possible and place each bid paper on the table.
- List the names of the businesses and their donations on poster board for display.
- Staff tables with workers to answer questions, monitor bid pages and displayed donations, and enforce auction rules.
- At the end of the auction, walk around the table and highlight the most recent and highest bids.
- Collection of money for the donations can either be done at the table after the auction or contact the winners by phone the next day and make arrangements.
- Send thank you letters to the businesses and donors.

Each semester the undergraduate, paraprofessional staff in Residence Life will have an opportunity to recognize the Buffalo State faculty who have made a difference in their lives.

All student staff will be offered the opportunity to complete a nomination form, highlighting the positive aspects of a favorite faculty member; faculty who have exemplified outstanding teaching qualities and whose classroom creativity, leadership, and innovation deserves special recognition.

Students will be asked to consider faculty whose efforts have had a lasting impression on them, who have provided dynamic classroom instruction, who exhibit attributes graduates can take with them into their careers, and who have "made a difference" in the lives of their students.

Midterms and Finals - Hand out donuts and coffee to freshmen during finals week. De-Stress Events, including study tips and refreshments, comfort food, comfort animals, massage, "study kits" healthy snacks in a baggie. Always have ALD marked somewhere

Cram Jam, stress relief, study groups, treats, "catch" someone studying, pet therapy

Reward students caught studying

Favorite Professor Picnic - Description of Activity: The picnic creates an opportunity outside the classroom where ALD members and faculty can interact in an informal setting. It also allows a student to honor a favorite professor and introduce him/her to other students. Some "get acquainted" games were played that motivated students and faculty to mix and mingle.

Cost: \$6.00 - \$7.00 per person

Planning Time: Four (4) hours (not including preparing and serving food and cleaning up)

People Involved and Resources: Faculty and ALD members of the university attended. We worked with the Student Affairs Office and the food service staff.

Important Steps:

- A letter was sent to each member including a description, time and day of the activity. Each was asked to return a RSVP form and include the name of his/her favorite professor.
- The Student Affairs staff addressed another invitation to the faculty members who had been listed as favorite professors, informed them of the event, and invited them to the event. We recently began adding to the professor's invitation the name of the student who listed them.
- The food service staff was contacted to help with food for the picnic.
- Hints and Suggestions: This picnic has become a tradition for us and we anticipate the event with much pleasure. It is a great experience to walk down a hallway and see that a professor has proudly posted his/her invitation on the door. This informal event is enjoyable and rewarding for the ALD members and the faculty.

Murder Mystery Dinner- Description of Event: The Murder Mystery Dinner is a social activity for ALD members. Approximately 10 members enjoyed a four-course Italian dinner and a game of who done it. At the beginning of the evening, all guests were given a brochure with little information about the game and characters. During each dinner course, different clues were revealed and the guests were allowed a certain number of questions. By the end of dessert, enough information had been revealed to determine the name of the killer.

Cost: \$50.00 for food (a \$5.00 - \$10.00 fee to participants is optional). \$40.00 for the game if one cannot be borrowed.

Planning Time: Three (3) weeks

People Involved and Resources: The main elements needed for this activity were a location, a store bought murder mystery game, and food. One senior advisor volunteered her house and another supplied the game. Food was paid for by the ALD chapter.

Important Steps:

- Find a place to hold the dinner.
- Inform members during monthly meetings.
- Make a sign-up sheet for the limited space for each dinner.
- Plan a menu.
- Purchase food and game if necessary.
- Hints or Suggestions: This is a fun activity that adds a little something to a simple dinner. Since there is a limited number of players, the game was repeated to include as many as possible.

Skate Night - Description of Activity: Skate night is held on a Saturday night at a local ice skating rink during "Sibs Weekend." "Sibs Weekend" is a time for students' brothers and sisters to visit the campus and they are invited to join us for ice skating. Along with raising funds for ALD, this provides an activity for the siblings and gives them an opportunity to meet new people.

Cost: \$200 (for rental of ice skating rink)

Planning Time: Three (3) weeks

People Involved and Resources: Only students and their siblings were invited to participate in skate night. The skating rink was reserved and students each paid their own admission to skate.

Important Steps:

- The skating rink was reserved weeks in advance. We checked with the rink to assure they had enough skates to facilitate our crowd.
- Some students were asked to bring their own skates because our crowd has grown to about 300 and the rink has run out of skates in the past.
- The money we made went to pay the fee for renting the rink (\$200) and the rest was profit for ALD.
- Hints and Suggestions: Be sure to reserve the rink early enough and make sure they have plenty of skates. If an ice skating rink is not available, a regular roller skating rink will work fine. Our organization has "sold out" each time it has sponsored the activity over the past three years.

Switch Your Shoe Mixer - Description of Activity: This activity is to facilitate the members' interaction and encourage them to get to know one another. Each student places a shoe in a large bag and later draws a shoe out of the bag belonging to another member. After finding the owner of the shoe, they talk momentarily to learn something about each other and then introduce their new friend to the large group.

Cost: Nothing!

Planning Time: Ten (10) minutes

People Involved and Resources: The officers and each member that attended the mixer participated by placing one shoe in the bag. All we needed was one or more large bag(s) able to hold all the shoes.

Important Steps:

- Decide who is going to conduct the activity and have a large bag at the door.
- Allow plenty of time for the students to find the owner of the shoe and talk for a while.
- Reconvene in a circle as the members introduce each other to the group.
- Hints or Suggestions: Since this activity costs nothing and takes up little time, it is an easy and effective way to help the members become more comfortable with each other and we have seen an increase in the attendance at subsequent meetings.

The Raft Debate - Description of Activity: Professors from a variety of disciplines take the stage to argue for their specific skills-as chemists, economists, or linguists, to name a few-to fill the final seat on a life raft. What makes the debate more interesting, is that the audience members are already on the raft, and the professors are at the mercy of countless students and faculty that get to decide who joins them.

Cost: Nothing

Planning Time: 2 months

People Involved and Resources: ALD officers and members brainstorm what faculty to invite. Commit four or five to participate. Reserve a room on campus and promote. Create guidelines such as 10 minutes for each faculty member to make their case, then follow-up time for rebuttals. Take questions

from the audience. Devise a way to vote, either by audience applause or some other method (texting through PollEverywhere). Have a prize for the winning faculty member, such as an ALD t-shirt. You could also purchase a wooden oar that their name is inscribed on and added to each year.

Last Lecture Series - Description of Activity: An ongoing series of lectures where top academics are asked to think deeply about what matters to them, and then give a hypothetical "final talk", i.e., "what wisdom would they try to impart to the world if they knew it was their last chance?" This is a very exciting opportunity for students to learn more about their instructors'/administrator's interests and/or thoughts on a subject they care deeply about.

You may be interested to watch one of the most famous "last lectures" that inspired this idea as a campus program across the country: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ji5_MqicxSo

Receiving over 19 million views on YouTube, "Really Achieving Your Childhood Dreams" was a lecture given by Carnegie Mellon University computer science professor Randy Pausch on September 18, 2007. Randy died in 2008.

Cost: Nothing

Planning Time: 2 months

People Involved and Resources: ALD officers and members brainstorm what faculty to invite. Commit one per semester or year. Reserve a room on campus and promote.

Service Activities

Annual project with ideas - <https://www.nationalald.org/service>

Most chapters perform some campus or community service activities. In addition to working with the campus admissions or orientation offices as volunteers, ALD members help community agencies, such as Big Brother or Big Sister, Red Cross, Boys & Girls Club, Salvation Army, Toys for Tots, Habitat for Humanity, Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts, homes for battered women and children, soup kitchens, animal shelters, nursing homes to visit elderly residents, Diabetes Association, Special Olympics, Children's Miracle Network, etc. Your campus may have a Community Service Office where you can get ideas and resources for performing service in your area.

Habitat for Humanity - Description of Activity: Habitat for Humanity helps low income families restore or rebuild their homes. Volunteers can spend the day doing simple carpentry, painting, and landscaping. No prior skills are necessary. The hard work brought a feeling of unity and accomplishment to the ALD members who participated. The project had such a positive effect on their members that by the end of the day many of them expressed an interest in returning the following semester.

Cost: Free!!

Planning Time: One (1) month

People Involved and Resources: All ALD officers and advisors were involved in this project. Contacting so many people to volunteer may not always be necessary if your city already has a Habitat for Humanity

Chapter. All ALD members were notified and the only resources necessary were transportation for members and tools they wished to bring.

Important Steps:

- Contact Habitat for Humanity and ask about projects in your area
- Set a date and time to participate.
- Contact members through monthly newsletter, chapter meetings, and the school newspaper.
- Arrange travel.
- Hints or Suggestions: This project was a great success! Have the members RSVP to make sure enough car space is available. The more volunteers who participate, the more rewarding and successful it will turn out for everyone involved.

Peer Tutoring Service - Description of Activity: The members were sent a letter (or email) asking for their participation in a tutoring program. A list was compiled of the volunteering members and sent to the residence halls, department chairs, and other various offices. This service is free to the students in need and serves as an alternative to their regular tutoring sessions.

Cost: \$100.00

Planning: 1 month

People Involved and Resources: In addition to active members, inactive members were contacted to broaden the range of classes and levels of the volunteering tutors. The tutoring sessions were held in available classrooms and the library at the students' convenience.

Important Steps:

- In your letter or email explain the project to the members and include a questionnaire asking which classes the members would be willing to tutor.
- Upon receiving the completed questionnaires from the students, we compiled the names and phone numbers of the willing members and printed a booklet listing these volunteers by subject.
- We distributed approximately 300 copies throughout the university.
- Hints and Suggestions: Definitely include inactive members as well as active members. This seemed to improve the overall response over that of previous years.

Tree of Joy - Description of Activity: The tree of joy was designed to provide needy families with presents for the holidays. Although many local shopping malls had similar projects, bringing the tree of joy to campus gave students an opportunity to share their Christmas spirit with those less fortunate. A list of families in need was obtained from the Salvation Army and the name of each recipient was written on a Christmas tree ornament. Students were free to come and choose an ornament anytime as long as the gifts were brought back at least one week before Christmas.

Cost: \$20.00 for ornaments and other supplies. If fake Christmas tree must be purchased, it will add to the cost.

Planning Time: 2 months

People Involved and Resources: A sign-up sheet was made for ALD members to periodically check on the tree making sure it was full of ornaments. Other resources such as a plastic tree and ornaments were either bought or donated by members. The Salvation Army was contacted for the names of the needy families, and the bookstore provided a free storage facility for the gifts.

Important Steps:

- Contact person in charge of similar projects at mall for information on necessary items.
- Talk to the management of the University Center where the tree will be on display for rules and regulations of the building.
- Contact members through monthly meetings.
- Obtain necessary supplies from the members or stores.
- Make a sign-up sheet for members to check on tree.
- Publicize event through poster and flyers handed out by members.
- Hints and Suggestions: This project was very rewarding. Getting an early head start will help you avoid any confrontation with campus policy and also allow more time for gifts to be given.

Big Brothers and Sisters Bowl-A-Thon - Description of Activity: Big Brothers & Sisters is an organization that matches a young adult with a child of the same gender from a single parent family. Our objective in participating in their Bowl-a-thon fund raiser is service to the community while providing some social interaction for our members at the same time.

To participate, enter one or more teams of 4-5 members who have obtained sponsors in the Bowl-a-thon. Team members bowl one game and are sponsored for the number of pins knocked down with the profits going to Big Brothers & Sisters.

Cost: Nothing!

Planning Time: 4-5 hours

People Involved and Resources: Members of ALD; 2 teams of 5 each. Student transportation to the bowling alley.

Important Steps:

- Obtain packet of Bowl-a-thon entry materials.
- Announce activity and team sign-ups at chapter meeting.
- Send in completed entry forms.
- Obtain sponsors for team members.
- Bowl with the team on the day of the Bowl-a-thon.
- Hints or Suggestions: We recommend this activity for any chapter who is interested in community service and a similar organization to Big Brothers & Sisters. This activity gets our students out in the community, makes them aware of some of the services the community offers and gives them an opportunity to contribute to the community.

Christmas Party and Santa Letters - Description of Activity: We combined a community service project with our annual chapter Christmas party. We wanted to bring the entire chapter together for fun and fellowship while helping our community. Food was donated for the members as we made ornaments for

the campus Christmas tree and answered "Dear Santa" letters the post office received from children in the community

Cost: postage stamps and refreshments

Planning Time: about ten (10) hours

People Involved and Resources: The party was for members and officers of the Alpha Lambda Delta chapter. The junior and senior advisors were consulted about previous Christmas parties and steps needed to be taken. We reserved a room at the university spacious enough to allow the members to fellowship while writing letters and making ornaments.

Important Steps:

- Prior to event...
- Activity chairs were appointed by the members. They immediately began by publishing information in the newsletter about the activity to inform all members.
- Activity chairs called local businesses to donate food.
- Previous officers were contacted for information and current officers were asked to supply markers and decorations.
- Activity chairs contacted post office to obtain "Dear Santa" letters.
- Day of event...
- Last minute supplies were purchased
- Donated food was prepared
- Letters were received
- Room was decorated
- Response letters were taken to post office
- Hints and Suggestions: Notify members early enough to insure a good outcome to the party. Contact several local businesses for donations and use any extra items as door prizes (etc.) to encourage and thank members. Since this event is quite simple and does not require much time to organize, we encourage all chapters consider trying it!

Fundraising

Silent Auction - Description of Activity: A silent auction is an auction that lasts over a period of time with all bids being made and displayed on a separate sheet of paper. All bids are displayed so that potential bidders can view previous bids. The silent auction works best at a booth during a festival, table fair, or a place where a large number of people come together for an event.

Cost: None/minimal

Planning Time: Three (3) months

People and Resources: ALD officers and members solicit local businesses and ask for donations. (Student bookstores seemed to be quite willing to donate university items such as shirts, book bags, and caps.) Letters sent to the businesses plenty of time in advance, and the items collected prior to the event.

Important Steps:

- Solicit local businesses for donations of goods and gift certificates.
- Pick an event for the silent auction where a large number of people will attend.
- Set up tables in a square shape so people can walk around the tables to view the items and make bids. This will also provide a center to your area, so workers can watch the tables.
- Place a description of each donation at the top of separate pieces of notebook paper.
- Display donations if possible and place each bid paper on the table.
- List the names of the businesses and their donations on poster board for display.
- Staff tables with workers to answer questions, monitor bid pages and displayed donations, and enforce auction rules.
- At the end of the auction, walk around the table and highlight the most recent and highest bids.
- Collection of money for the donations can either be done at the table after the auction or contact the winners by phone the next day and make arrangements.
- Send thank you letters to the businesses and donors.

An alternative auction program is to sell tickets at the start of the event, and participants can put their tickets toward whatever item or items they want to win. Each donated item needs a paper lunch bag next to it. Participants can spread their tickets around or put them all in one bag. At the designated end time someone chooses a ticket from each bag for the winner.

Family Feud - Description of Activity: The Family Feud-Fund Raiser is designed to raise money for your organization, while at the same time promoting school spirit and on campus activity. Interesting answers are compiled from questionnaires sent out targeting college age students. Fraternities, sororities and other student organizations are contacted for a "family" to participate. Audience is charged admission or pledges per point are obtained from the "families" for fund raising.

Cost: \$20 - \$30, if you can borrow things.

Planning Time: One (1) month

People Involved and Resources: ALD members survey the campus and get answers from volunteering students. Various student organizations are contacted to participate, and the audience for the game is open to everyone. The student activities office should be contacted early enough to assure a reserved room.

Important Steps:

- Survey your campus and tally the answers.
- Create cards for using in the game.
- Fix a game board.
- Send out invitations/flyers.
- Reserve a room with seating for audience.
- Get your answer strips made.
- Set up game board.
- Set up a tournament for ultimate winner
- Hints and Suggestions: For the game board we used a blackboard and covered it. Make enough questionnaires for the number of games you want to play. Watch the TV show for details of the game.