



Technology Student Association

State Conference Date:

Wednesday - Saturday, April _____ - _____

Departure Time:

Students should report to the Tech Ed rooms with their luggage and projects at normal or before school time. Departure will take place shortly after.

Location / Contact Information:

Hotel:

Seven Springs Mountain Resort Hotel
777 Waterwheel Dr , Seven Springs, PA 15622
814-352-7777 | 800-452-2223

Advisors Attending Conference:

Mr. Jon Jarrett
570-412-5304

jjarrett@seal-pa.org

Mr. Ben Tressler
(chaperone / driver)

Food / Extracurriculars:

Included:

- 3 meals on Thursday and Friday
- 1 meal & 1 snack on Saturday

Not Included:

- 2 meals on Wednesday
- 1 meal on the return trip on Saturday

Students will be responsible for bringing extra money for meals such as these 3, extracurricular events while at the hotel such as bowling or the arcade, and any memorabilia they want to purchase.

Dress Code:

Students should plan to bring 3 days worth of dress clothes, 4 days worth of casual clothes, and any athletic wear they may want for events such as bowling, basketball, iron man competition, etc.

Behavior:

Attending the state conference is a huge honor for the students and the school. Students will be representing the district and will need to abide by all conference and school rules. If a student at any time does not abide by these rules, their parent or guardian will be called and told to come get them immediately.

Live Stream of Conference:

You can watch several of the larger events online at <http://patsa.org/conferences/state/live-stream>.

If you have any questions, please feel free to email or call.

Sincerely,
Mr. Jarrett

Conference Information

First and foremost, congratulations to you and your students. Their hard work paid off. To qualify for states, Selinsgrove requires a first or multiple second and third place winners. The state competition is held at [Seven Springs Mountain Resort](#), which is basically a ski lodge in the middle of nowhere PA. The hotel grounds has an indoor pool, arcade, bowling alley, mini golf, shops, restaurants, outdoor tennis courts, non-TSA competitions (iron man, video game, etc.), and nature trails to walk. Other than the first day, the student's schedules should be packed if they truly take up the opportunities of getting involved in other events. Our regional conference is only 1 day with limited events. There are other events students can partake in to be in to justify missing so much school / the financial aspect. I highly encourage these events.

What is the itinerary like for the days that you will be there?

- **Wednesday:** Leave school around 9ish. We get there in the late afternoon. We check into our room. Tour the facility. Eat dinner as a large group if possible. Display event drop-offs 6-9. Free time (catch up on schoolwork), group meeting around 8pm. Free time until bed. Curfew to be in your place of residence is 10:30-11.
- **Thursday:** Breakfast as a group at 6:45-7. Opening ceremony 8-9. Breakout to their individual / team events. Lunch and dinner are on their own time. Events run until 11pm. Following dinner, students can display the events in the display hall. I normally meet up with everyone throughout the day and make sure everything is fine before curfew.
- **Friday:** Events are on their own (normally they go in groups). Events and semi finalist interviews take place from 8am-6pm. Again, meals are on their own. After dinner, there is a formal TSA business meeting where they give out scholarships, announce the new state officer team, conduct statewide TSA updates for the next year, etc.. Following dinner, students pick up their display event projects. Friday night normally is a celebration of random events: Video game competition, carnival games, one year there was a dance, etc.. In the past, we have tried to reserve the bowling alley post meeting for a club "bowling night" for whomever wants to participate. Friday night we have a group meeting to discuss the next day.
- **Saturday:** We load the bus or vans with our belongings. Go to breakfast as a group. Find a wheelbarrow to carry all the trophies we hopefully win at the awards ceremony! The award ceremony normally lasts from 9-1ish. Home by 4-6 depending on traffic and the length of the ceremony.

*When I say, "meals are on their own", I mean that they can go eat at the buffet style meal whenever they are available to do so.

What will they be doing when they are there?

- Hopefully, everyone will be in multiple events that take place throughout the day Thursday and Friday. In most events, the top ten semi finalists also have interviews to do. Students can see events such as CO2 car races, RC car races, Flight endurance (airplane making / flying), bridge breaking, robotics contests, fashion design runway fashion show, Tech Bowl (team trivia) setup team jeopardy style, and many more. For students not signed up for many events, they normally are required to compete in the On Demand Video team competition which takes up all their time. It is a video production competition that takes place during the conference.

*Any free time, which isn't / shouldn't be much at all, is highly encouraged to be used for completing their normal school work.

Will much of their time be spent at the competition or just them being in the rooms?

- They are encouraged to be out and about seeing and experiencing the conference as much as possible, but I am not able to monitor this 100% of the time. If they are doing the conference right, they won't be in their rooms that much.

Who will be chaperoning them? How many adults are going?

- This depends on how many students attend states from our school. Normally, it is just Mr. John Aument and myself (Mr. Jon Jarrett).
- The conference itself is not small. There are advisors, judges, TSA national representatives, hotel staff everywhere. All students and adults wear a name tag at all times! This helps the adults "police" the conference at all times, even past curfew.

Do they leave the hotel or are they there the entire time?

- The students are not permitted to leave the hotel grounds at any time! There is security that monitors this. If the students leave the hotel area by themselves to walk back to our cabin or ride the shuttle to our chalets (for years we stay in them), they must get permission from me first, have a way of always communicating with me, and be in groups of 3 or more. The reasons for leaving would be: Walking a nature trail if open, playing tennis, seeing the Koi pond, and filming shots for the On Demand Video competition.

What time are you leaving on Wednesday and what time are you returning Saturday?

- Wednesday: Students come to school at normal time with all their luggage. Unless there is a predetermined reason, we normally leave some time between 9-10 am.