



What is the NAC?

The Northstar Advisory Committee (NAC) is comprised of the parents of students attending Northstar Junior High School and has representatives from the school's staff, administration, and students. The purpose of the NAC is to provide a mechanism for parents and students to assist the staff regarding decisions facing Northstar, and provide a forum where parents and students can express their viewpoints on issues regarding the school. Although the staff and administration are the sole controllers of curriculum content, the NAC plays a valuable role in sharing ideas and providing feedback.

The NAC makes decisions about student activities, fundraising, conference weeks, parties, dances, and end of the school year events, and coordinates the resources and funding to make these things happen. The NAC is also responsible for coordinating conference week activities, health screening, disaster planning, community service opportunities, field trips, and the ski and snowboard program.

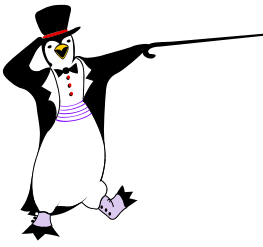
This is a large task and we need your partnership. Just as Northstar students are expected to perform 30 hours of service to the community each year, Northstar parents are expected to perform 30 hours of service per family to the school. Strong parental support and involvement in NAC activities contributes greatly to the success of the school and helps to make a positive educational experience for the students.

We ask that each family keep a record of hours donated to NAC each year. Each month you will be sent a reminder email to either email your hours to NAC or to turn in a sheet with your volunteer hours on it. This is important because some employers will donate funds to NAC based on the number of hours their employees have donated to NAC. Also, it is easier to get grants if we can show we have an active volunteer community.

Please remember that we all work. We all have jobs, businesses, commitments, and responsibilities that limit our free time. Your time is just as valuable as another parent's time. Please respect each other by sharing these duties.

Our children are young only once. Being involved with their school is a way to stay connected with your kids, even as they become increasingly independent. The NAC looks forward to significant accomplishments this year but can only do so with your help and commitment.

The NAC holds monthly meetings each month during the school year. We look forward to seeing you there and listening to your input.



How Can I Become Involved?

- Attend the Annual Family Picnic in August to learn about volunteer opportunities and sign up for the ones that interest you. If you have any questions about the time commitment or skills needed, please contact the Volunteer Coordinator or one of the NAC Chairpersons.
- If you have Email, sign-up to be put on the Northstar Email Distribution List to receive notices about school events and needs.
- Make your monetary contribution (we accept payment plans!).
- Attend the monthly NAC meetings. We need you input.
- If you don't hear from us directly, please contact the Volunteer Coordinator or one of the NAC Chairpersons to ask how you can help.
- Visit the web site. We often ask for assistance on projects.

Parents Fund

Each year, the NAC asks the families of current students to contribute to the Parent Fund. This vital fund is used to underwrite numerous activities throughout the year. While important, many of these activities tend to fall outside the usual academic curriculum, and therefore are not funded by the school district. Items covered by the Parent Fund include:

- Fees for guest speakers and events
- Assisting with the Medieval Fair and student plays
- Subsidizing field trips
- Teacher discretionary funds (used to purchase special classroom materials, class parties, hospitality expenses, etc.)
- Graduation and Year-end Celebration
- School Picnic
- Open House refreshments
- Social events and dances
- Subsidizing the yearbook
- And many more miscellaneous events and items

The NAC asks that each family contribute a minimum of \$200 per child. By contributing to this fund, we avoid having several different fundraisers throughout the year. If you cannot pay due hardship, please notify the NAC treasurer. Please bring your check to the August conference.

Northstar Web Site and Electronic Mail

The Northstar Web Site is managed by a parent volunteer and is continuously updating information about Northstar activities, course descriptions, staff biographies, and upcoming events. The address of the web site is:

www.lwsd.org/nsjh

The Northstar Staff makes extensive use of Email to send out notices, reminders, requests for help, etc. to parents via the Northstar Email Distribution List. If you have access to Email, you'll want be on this distribution list!