

MISSOURI HOSA HEADLINES

NATIONAL IMMUNIZATION MONTH



August is National Immunization Month, an annual observance that highlights the importance of vaccination. As future healthcare professionals, it's important to understand the value of immunizations. Vaccines help prevent dangerous infectious diseases and save millions of lives each year.

During August, doctors and healthcare organizations work to educate the public about recommended vaccines and make them more accessible. As HOSA members, you can make sure your own immunizations are up-to-date, educate friends and family members on vaccination to fight misinformation, and encourage people to stay on the recommended schedule. Getting immunized is an easy way we can all do our part to fight disease and stay healthy.

Missouri HOSA, let's **dare to create** this year through outreach, growth, and collaboration. Dare to create in all your endeavors and have a great start to your school year!



Learn more about transitioning back to school and HOSA on our monthly podcast. Stream it on Spotify!

OUTSTANDING MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Missouri HOSA members Maddie Swart and Aubrey Dillon recently received the gold distinction for the Barbara James Service Award at this year's ILC, which is earned through amassing over 250+ medical volunteering hours. We asked them a few questions regarding their journey to this award, here are their answers!



Maddie Swart, Francis Howell North High

As a frequent volunteer, Maddie felt as if the BJS event felt almost 'natural' for her. Working toward a greater cause was her primary motivation. The majority of her hours were collected with the child life department at Mercy Hospital in St. Louis. Her advice for aspiring volunteers is to "keep with it." She advises that even if certain hospitals and locations don't have set programs, reaching out and asking if they need help will never hurt, and often times they will graciously accept the extra helping hands!



Aubrey Dillon, Kickapoo High

Aubrey has always been an immensely passionate volunteer, but she's also been a dedicated member of the Kickapoo HOSA chapter, and she took up the BJS event to hit both of those targets in one move. Her volunteer hours came primarily from volunteering at Camp Barnabas, a summer camp for people with special needs. She says that the work she did at her camp as a caretaker invigorated her passion for a career in nursing. Her advice for aspiring volunteers is to look for organizations/causes you're passionate about and start getting involved as it is a great way to discover things that you love!

The time to start volunteering is now! To be recognized for a BJS distinction at ILC, any approved medical volunteer hours between June 1, 2023 and May 15, 2024 will be counted. For more information regarding event guidelines, check out hosa.org/guidelines. If you have any questions on how to start volunteering, please reach out to us at missourihosa2@gmail.com!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Chapter Affiliation



Don't forget to affiliate your chapters! More information can be found at www.missourihosa.org. Chapter advisors, contact Rachel Fisher with any questions at rachel.fisher@dese.mo.gov

FLC



Join us at our Fall Leadership Conference on October 5-6 for a great chance to learn all about HOSA and network with other HOSA members!

Regional Events



This year, we're excited to be hosting regional events in St. Louis, Rolla, and Kansas City! Stay tuned for more updates!

Find more information about upcoming events on the Missouri HOSA website at www.missourihosa.org!

Chapter Visits



This fall, meet with your state officers virtually or in-person to learn about HOSA-specific topics! Please have a chapter advisor reach out to Mrs. Fisher to book a chapter visit.

HOSA Week



Celebrate HOSA this year during HOSA week from November 6-11! Stay tuned to our podcast and social media for more info!