



Facilitating Community™

What can the NFHS and its members do to support the role of high school in community through this strategy? Realize, first, the needs are real and the best of community has already been created...

“Somewhere in America today...”

- ...a high school team and their community prepare to participate in their first state championship
- ...the senior class is hosting a swing band era dance for the senior citizens in the community
- ...a junior is afraid to ask the owner of the local store for a summer job
- ...ninth graders are planting tomatoes in the high school community garden
- ...families are baking cookies to sell at a high school game tonight
- ...the mayor is participating in a debate with the high school debate team
- ...a dozen of the altos in the high school community choir are parents
- ...the high school orchestra is trying to figure out how to replace a broken timpani drum
- ...a high school student will be a starter in the game for the first time
- ...they are having their 25th annual high school chili cook-off
- ...a woman who graduated in 1960 is wondering what the dress code is in high school
- ...a guy who graduated 10 years ago is building the sets for the high school musical
- ...a high school student will score the game winner she will never forget
- ...over 250 adults who do not have kids in school will come to the art fair at the high school
- ...a sophomore is with a neighbor in the high school auto shop working on a small gas engine
- ...the high school students in the chess club are beating all the adults
- ...the mother of an art student talks to the principal at the school’s first art fair
- ...a third-grader will watch a high school sporting event and dream of playing on the team
- ...the high school “nerd master” kid is teaching neighborhood adults how to set the clock on a VCR
- ...a retired couple smiles and thinks of the high school musical they attended the night before as they vote for the additional funding for high school activities

NFHS will not build community. It will reinvigorate and promote community by making known all the wonderful opportunities to be involved with the local high school. The best of community exists in pockets all over America. The best of the best experiences are happening at high schools.

Facilitating Community™ is a strategy to:

- Identify the most promising activities
- Extend opportunities to others to participate in those activities
- Communicate the opportunities to participate to students and neighbors
- Provide resources to extend the activities most effective at enriching community
- Promote the educational value of high school sports and activities

Facilitating Community™ will:

- **RESEARCH** - Learn, first, the status of high school involvement in community and determine the true needs and desires of students and the community
- **COMMUNICATE** - Create and distribute reports from the above research along with the encouragement to be more involved with the community
- **FACILITATE** – Match the opportunities to enrich community with the necessary resources
 - Identify foundations and companies who demonstrate a belief in the need for community and a willingness to participate in and support programs that enhance social development for high school students and community.
 - Create a national support website available to high schools where they can find a broad range of examples of programs that have worked in other schools along with instructions for how to make them work
 - Create a website boilerplate like “Things to do at the high school” that any high school can adopt.

Identifying the most promising activities, currently taking place all over America today, where high school activities intersect with strengthening and building community is part of our on-going research. To find out more about the Facilitating Community™ strategy, or to submit a description of activities from your high school and community, contact NFHS Marketing by email at: marketing@nfhs.org