



SONS OF SOPHISTICATION, INC NEW CHAPTER STARTER KIT

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ABOUT US

Sons of Sophistication (SOS) is an up and coming non-profit organization that is dedicated to advancing the lives of young minority men. Our mission is to give young men the tools they need to not only to conquer the world, but to leave their footprint amongst society. This program works to reinforce the following seven core values:

- ◆ **Visionary Goal Setting**: Students will learn to envision their manhood in the future and to make clear connections between their current behaviors, attitudes, and values to their vision.
- ◆ **Self-Determination**: Students will learn the importance of focus and perseverance for reaching one's goals while facing self-defeating feelings, thoughts, and behaviors that can become obstacles or barriers to goal attainment.
- ◆ **Presentation**: Students will learn the necessary skills to dress for success, understanding the importance of the world's perception of them, and how to properly carry themselves in any setting.
- ◆ **Accountability**: Students will learn how to take ownership of their feelings, thoughts, and behaviors while also learning that a man does not project or put blame onto others for the consequences of his own bad decisions.
- ◆ **Integrity**: Students will learn to identify their core value, reflect on their actions, and understand the importance of ensuring that the two align in every space that they enter.
- ◆ **Positive Emotion Expression**: Students will learn how to identify and face their traumas, pain, and faulty thinking patterns that cause them to act in destructive manners. Then they will begin to learn how to heal these parts of themselves and how to use their revitalized energy in a constructively.
- ◆ **Respect for Women**: Students will dissect their personal views towards women and relationships, and taught how to leverage their position to, not only empower, but value the women in their lives.

We believe young men of today can work to improve all these values. The goal is to foster an inspiring environment, where young men can push themselves as well as each other to defy stereotypes and break boundaries. Below are a few reasons to join SOS:

- ◆ **Professional Development** - Students will be taught essential professional skills such as goal setting, interviewing skills, appropriate dressing, etc. through interactive workshops.
- ◆ **Personal Development** - Students will be challenged to face past traumas, personal triggers, and fears to foster an environment to grow into mentally and emotional young men.
- ◆ **Director Training and Collaboration** - Directors will be trained on group collaboration, curriculum writing, facilitation, and relationship building by SOS Founders.
- ◆ **Youth Engagement** - Founders will teach and demonstrate different methods to interacting with students outside of the traditional teacher role.
- ◆ **Learning Through Exposure** - Organization exposes students to new experiences, ideologies, emotions, and coping mechanisms which will instill them with tools necessary to take over the world.

ROLES

Brianca Wright and Le’Otis Boswell Johnson will serve as Advisors, whose roles are to provide the foundational information necessary to start your Chapter. This includes:

- ◆ Provide training
- ◆ Assist in problem solving
- ◆ Provide foundational basis for organization
- ◆ Encourage and motivate directors
- ◆ Foster environment for creativity

Your role as Director(s) of this new Chapter is to use this information to build and execute your vision for your Chapter. This includes:

- ◆ Set goals for organization
- ◆ Recruit mentees
- ◆ Assist students in planning activities
- ◆ Operate as servant leaders
- ◆ Collect and evaluate qualitative and quantitative data
- ◆ Work as a team to achieve desired impact
- ◆ Cultivate an inclusive environment which encourages growth

Don’t do it all yourself. Students need to have a sense of ownership – a voice in decision-making, a forum for new ideas. Give the students a sense of ownership, but remember letting them take over, allowing them to plan, and execute activities requires you to provide structure and sometimes teach them how to think innovatively.

THE PROCESS

STEP I

Get approval from the school administration

Your principal's support is very important! A supportive principal can help an organization prosper. Keep your principal informed and involved and they will most likely be on your side for good.

STEP II

Choose a team

Choose hardworking and dedicated individuals who exude your passion to empower youth. Your organization will only go as far as the strength of your team.

- ◆ Business Operations Manager
- ◆ Outreach & Communications Coordinator
- ◆ Learning & Development Director
- ◆ Financial Consultant
- ◆ Administrative Secretary

STEP III

Solicit support

Solicit support from teachers and other school personnel to aid in the recruitment of boys, reinforcement of values and chaperoning events. You should also solicit support from community partnerships (restaurants and local food vendors, colleges/universities, businesses, etc.). The stronger your network, the more wealth of opportunity that is brought into your organization.

STEP IV

Pay chapter dues and complete Directors' Training

Training will provide valuable information about the organization, projects, and activities and the operation of your chapter.

STEP V

Recruit (Optional)

Recruit a few core students to start. These students can help recruit others. They can also be a valuable resource when setting goals, planning meetings, developing budgets, and promoting partnership.

STEP VI

Draft a constitution

When starting, you might want to use the sample Chapter Constitution. However, you will want to review or write one of your own later. A constitution should act as your Chapter's roadmap.

STEP VII

Plan a tentative curriculum

When you ask people to join the organization, have some definitive projects in mind so that you can tell prospective members about them. This is the basis of your organization.

Try to include chapter activities in each of the following areas

- ◆ Fundraising project
- ◆ Service project
- ◆ Leadership project
- ◆ Social awareness project
- ◆ Think ahead project
- ◆ Recreational project

STEP VIII

Prepare a budget

What is it that your chapter wants to accomplish? Why is it being formed? Base this budget on the activities you planned and the needed materials for the year. You will need to plan ahead to determine how much money your chapter will need and how you will go about earning that money. (See sample budget

STEP IX

Plan membership drive

Here are a few suggestions:

- ◆ Ask teachers, counselors, and coaches, for recommendations of students
- ◆ Advertise on school social media
- ◆ Promote during school announcements
- ◆ Create flyers to post throughout the school
- ◆ Have a booth at open house/registration
- ◆ Speak to students you have a relationship with

STEP X

Plan a terrific first meeting

Don't let this meeting just happen! Plan it well ahead of time. Have a Q2Q. This is when you will sell the organization. If it sounds fun, exciting, interesting, organized, and involved, students will want to join. Get students involved from the beginning. Make them feel needed, wanted, and part of a group.

SESSION LAYOUT



First Circle: This activity sets the tone for the day, ensures everyone is on the same page and allows the group to share highlights from their lives.

Icebreaker: This activity relieves the tension of starting conversations, promotes physical engagement and transitions the students from the classroom setting to the liberation of the session.



Activities: Directors will connect the teachings of the value with innovative instruction creating a space where all voices can be heard, ideologies are matured, and healing can occur.



Final Circle: This activity provides closure for the day allowing students to praise each other, share what they have learned and leave conducting themselves as kings.



PROJECT IDEAS

STUDENT **PARTICIPATION**

- ◆ Let students take turns leading sessions
- ◆ Student of the month/year
- ◆ Regular school visits
- ◆ Hosting tutoring sessions
- ◆ Make motivating post on Instagram
- ◆ Communicate with students through social media
- ◆ Provide tutoring for SAT, ACT, etc.
- ◆ Allow students to provide feedback

STUDENT **APPRECIATION**

- ◆ Sponsor Game Night
- ◆ Provide school supplies at beginning of year
- ◆ Sponsor student talent show
- ◆ Write personal letters of appreciation
- ◆ One-on-One outings
- ◆ Honor Roll Pizza Party
- ◆ Paper Plate Awards
- ◆ Fun Days

EDUCATION **AWARENESS**

- ◆ College days
- ◆ Research and create newsletter
- ◆ Career day
- ◆ Sponsor a scholarship for a senior
- ◆ Invite parents to attend a session
- ◆ Invite speakers from the local universities
- ◆ Research and provide scholarship information
- ◆ Sponsor a book fair
- ◆ Visit college campuses
- ◆ Visit school board meetings

FUNDRAISING

- ◆ Car wash
- ◆ Val-O-Grams
- ◆ Recycling
- ◆ Sell Mugs
- ◆ Sell organization merch
- ◆ Talent show
- ◆ Host Combine
- ◆ Bake Sale
- ◆ Selling Dinners

LEADERSHIP

- ◆ Run for organization leadership positions
- ◆ Allow student Admin Team to plan events
- ◆ Start “Accountability Brothers” program
- ◆ Participate in near-peer counseling
- ◆ Hold banquet to honor outstanding members
- ◆ Discuss leadership qualities

SERVICE

- ◆ Park clean up
- ◆ Walk-a-thon
- ◆ Volunteer at hospital
- ◆ Auction for charity
- ◆ Senior citizen dance
- ◆ Habitat for Humanity
- ◆ Cleanup campus
- ◆ Paint trash cans
- ◆ Help at registration
- ◆ Work at special Olympics
- ◆ Reading to elementary school

MEETING HINTS

Use an agenda

Be sure to have an agenda for each meeting. This will allow the meeting to run smoothly and less time will be wasted. It also assures that everything is considered, and nothing is forgotten. This following is a standard “order of business” from which you can write your agenda:

- Call to order
- Attendance or Sign-in
- Reading and approval of minutes
- Treasurer’s report
- Reports of other officers
- Reports of committees
- New business
- Announcements
- Adjournment

Helpful Tips

Have a regular meeting time – once a week, once every two weeks, or once a month. If only once a month, be sure to communicate with your members between times (using bulletin boards, notes, announcements, text messages, email, or social media).

- Start meetings on time
- Follow your agenda
- Write agenda on board or give each person a copy
- Have paper and pencil for each member
- Use parliamentary procedure
- Find a regular meeting place – quiet, well lit, well ventilated, and easy to reach.
- Be consistent

SOS Pledge

As a Director of SOS, I hereby pledge to promote positive attitudes regarding all aspects of growth and development of our young men, to acknowledge the challenge of being a role model, and to provide service and leadership to all within the organization

SAMPLE MEETING MINUTES

10.31 Meeting

Start | 7:35

Members Present: *insert present team members*

Pluses/Deltas for Monday

- Boys got out the message of this week- Presentation
- Meeting went well, and boys understood the importance of interviewing skills
- Good Facilitation of the meeting instead of a standard “lecture” type
- Start time takes longer than necessary. Need to be more aware of starting at 2

Study Hall/Workshop

- Meeting went well, being that it was a very interactive, participants were able to get hands on experience on what how to do something instead of just hearing

Director 1:

- The SOS account currently has \$--
 - Last week we spent \$-- on supplies (large post it notes and markers)
 - Upcoming expenses
 - Honor roll pizza party \$--
- Will be taking in Advisor’s recommendations about Social Media Presence
- FAMU Ambassador has been set

Director 2:

- Next workshop will be for the Admin Team
- Majority of the mentee applications have been submitted.
- Vibe Day Upcoming Monday
- Next step is to get the mentors/mentees paired up
 - Mentors need to be updated on reveal event
 - Need reveal Ideas and suggestions for mentors

Director 3:

- Have Academic reports for Mentees
- Working on getting the Match Up between Mentors/Mentees
 - Pair by Connection
 - Currently have more Mentors than Mentees
- Still trying to figure out 3 on 3 basketball game
- Bowling Social will be in November
- Both will be on a Sunday, time will be determined

Comments:

Additional comments

Meeting End Time | 8:55 PM

SAMPLE BUDGET

YEARLY BUDGET													
Houston Chapter													[start date]
REVENUE	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	YTD
Fundraisers	\$50	\$0	\$100	\$300	\$100	\$150	\$150	\$0	\$250	\$100	\$100	\$0	\$1,300
Sponsor	\$250	\$250	\$250	\$250	\$250	\$250	\$250	\$250	\$250	\$250	\$250	\$250	\$3,000
One-time donations	\$10	\$25	\$0	\$100	\$0	\$0	\$350	\$100	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$75	\$660
School Partnership	\$500	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$500	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,000
EXPENSES	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	YTD
Meeting Materials	\$300	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$50	\$100	\$300	\$25	\$0	\$0	\$100	\$875
Fundraiser Materials	\$100	\$50	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$50	\$0	\$100	\$0	\$0	\$75	\$60	\$435
Fun Days	\$75	\$75	\$75	\$75	\$75	\$75	\$75	\$75	\$75	\$75	\$75	\$75	\$900
Trips	\$500	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$250	\$0	\$100	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$850
Food	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$200	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$100	\$800
NET INCOME	-\$215	-\$125	\$225	\$525	\$75	-\$75	\$525	\$225	\$350	\$225	\$150	-\$235	\$2,100

SAMPLE CONSTITUTION

Article I: Name

School Name: _____.

Article II: Purposes

Section 1. Sons of Sophistication provides mentoring and tutoring to elevate and motivate minority men in at risk areas.

Section 2. To explore our own interests and abilities in relation to the various fields of mentorship.

Section 3. To cultivate the qualities of character, service, and leadership which are essential in successful young men.

Article III: Officers and Duties

Section 1. The president shall preside over meetings and see that the work of the chapter goes forward.

Section 2. The vice president shall assist the president and act in his/her absence. He shall serve as chairperson of the program committee.

Section 3. The secretary shall keep an accurate list of members and a record of their attendance at meetings and shall record the activities of the chapter, including the minutes of business meetings. He/she shall carry on all chapter correspondence.

Section 4. The financial secretary shall collect state and national dues and send the annual fees to the state office and the FEA national office.

Section 5. The historian shall keep the history of the chapter and the scrapbook.

Section 6. The parliamentarian shall learn parliamentary procedure and teach it to the chapter.

Section 7. The faculty advisor shall advise the chapter in all its activities and relations.

Article IV: Qualifications and Duties of Advisors

Section 1. The principal (or an assistant principal appointed by the principal) should serve in an advisory role for chapter operations.

Section 2. The advisor shall be members of the Founder Team..

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Article V: Membership

Section 1. Membership is open to any student in grades ____ to ____ who is interested in mentorship and who has the high qualities of character, service, scholarship, and leadership.

Section 2. [Absence policy]

Section 3. The scholastic and citizenship standing of students shall be reviewed twice annually. Below average grades may result in placing the student on probation or cause loss of membership.

Article VI: MEETINGS

The chapter shall meet at [state times]

Article VII: ELECTIONS

Officers should be elected by ballot annually

Article VIII: Quorum

A majority of the members shall constitute a quorum.

Article IX: Committees

Section 1. The president and sponsor shall be ex officio members of every committee.

Section 2. Committees shall include program, social, publicity, membership, finance, and service.

Section 3. The vice president shall be chairperson of the program committee.

Section 4. Chairpersons of other committees shall be appointed by the president with approval of the advisor and principal.

Article X: Amendments

This constitution may be amended by a two-thirds vote at any regular meeting, provided notice in writing of the proposed amendment shall have been filed with the secretary and presented at a monthly meeting preceding the one at which it is to be voted.

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