



Building Bridges, Strengthening Communities

One of the things I love about PTA is that we are never meant to build alone.

Strong communities are built through connections—between families and schools, volunteers and educators, local PTAs and councils, and communities and the resources available to them. Each connection creates a bridge, and every strong bridge needs a solid foundation.

That foundation is one of the greatest resources we have in PTA.

Utah PTA has resources, training, experience, relationships, and tools that are designed to help leaders succeed. Link: <https://www.utahpta.org/national-standards-family-school-partnerships>) Our councils and regions provide support and connection. National PTA brings additional resources, programs, and opportunities. And our local PTAs bring those resources to life in ways that meet the needs of their own communities.

But a resource only becomes valuable when we use it.

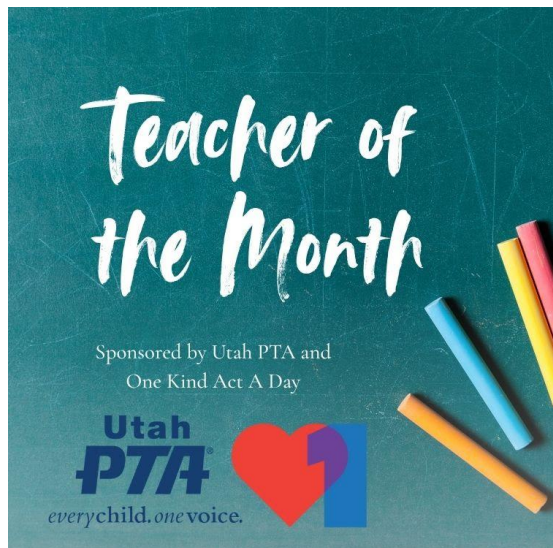
This year, I want to encourage every PTA leader to ask: What bridge are we building? Who needs to be on the other side? And what PTA resource can help us get there?

Maybe the bridge connects a new family to the school. Maybe it connects a volunteer to an opportunity to serve. Maybe it connects your PTA to another community organization or helps your leaders develop the skills they need to move forward.

Every bridge we build strengthens our communities. And every community we strengthen becomes part of the legacy we leave for the children who come after us.

We are building communities today that will become our legacy tomorrow.

Sincerely, **Julie Cluff** *Utah PTA President*



Celebrate a Teacher Who Makes a Difference

Utah PTA and One Kind Act a Day are excited to continue the Teacher of the Month Recognition Award, celebrating teachers who make a lasting difference through kindness, positivity, and meaningful family engagement.

Each month, one outstanding teacher will be recognized for going above and beyond to create a welcoming classroom, strengthen relationships with families, and make their school and community a better place. The selected teacher will receive a \$500 classroom grant from One Kind Act a Day as a thank-you for the positive impact they make every day.

We know there are incredible teachers in classrooms across Utah who deserve to be celebrated. Who is the teacher who makes a difference at your school? Take a moment to nominate a teacher who demonstrates kindness, inspires students, supports families, and helps build a stronger school community.

Learn more and submit a nomination at [Utah PTA Teacher of the Month](#).

Let's celebrate the educators who remind us that one kind act can make a difference.



Southern Utah Leadership Academy

Applications due Monday, September 21!

Have you wanted to register for Leadership Academy but didn't want to come to Salt Lake? Or do you live in Northern Utah and need a weekend class? Utah PTA will be holding a Leadership Academy in Southern Utah this fall! Take your leadership skills and PTA impact to the next level. The Utah PTA Leadership Academy is a powerful, four-class series designed to equip you with proven strategies in family engagement, advocacy, outreach, and communication. Whether you are a local, council, or region leader, Leadership Academy will provide you with universal leadership tools to strengthen your PTA and your community.

Schedule: October 10-11 and November 6-7

Location: St. George, Utah

Cost: FREE for all PTA leaders (meals are included!)

Deadline: Monday, September 21 at 11:59 PM

Don't miss this opportunity to grow your skills and connect with other leaders. Invite your friends so we get enough people to apply! For more information, visit www.utahpta.org/leadership-academy.
Apply Today!

Digital Strategies for Fall Growth



- Secure the digital hand off
- Execute a QR Code Blitz
- Mobilize Ambassadors

Every digital connection expands our collective voice for Utah students!



Digital Strategies for Fall Growth

Back-to-school night may be behind us, but our membership drive is far from over! As September settles in, many local PTAs see a drop in recruitment, leaving a "registration gap" between enrolled students and registered PTA members. Now is the time to pivot to seamless digital strategies that maintain visibility and meet parents where they are:

- Secure the Digital Hand-Off: Ensure your Givebacks/online membership links are front-and-center on your school's doors, official website landing page, and social channels.
- Execute a QR Code Blitz: Place durable, scannable QR codes at high-traffic physical touchpoints: pickup loops, athletic concessions, and community event tables.
- Mobilize Ambassadors: Partner with teachers and student leaders to share digital join links through classroom messaging apps and morning announcements.

Every digital connection expands our collective voice for Utah students! For more membership growth ideas, visit: <https://www.utahpta.org/membership>

scan to register
utahpta.org/practical

JOIN US!
Thursday,
October 1st
at 8 pm

**STUDENT PTSA COMMITTEES:
GIVE STUDENTS A VOICE**
by Jill Derington and student chairs

Practical PTA Webinar

Join us for our Practical PTA in October. We will be covering Student PTSA Committees: Give Students, how to use PTSA student committee members by Utah PTSA Student Leadership Chair, Jill Derington. Practical PTA is a webinar-style Zoom meeting held once a month, on the first Thursday at 8pm. Topics will change each month. When you register for the webinar you will receive the link to join the webinar live as well as the recording when it is over. If you missed any of our previous training, the recording of past trainings is available in the Utah PTA University. [Register now!](#)



Local bylaws require each PTA/PTSA in good standing to have at least two officers attend Utah PTA Leadership Convention OR an approved alternate training, as well as attend council meetings. Did at least two officers from your PTA board attend Leadership Convention? Yes? You've met the training requirement! No? You'll need to complete the Utah PTA Approved Alternate Training.

To receive the official alternate training, email becca@utahpta.org with: Your name, Your email address, Your PTA/PTSA name. Then ask for the official Approved Alternate Training. Don't choose your own training—Utah PTA must approve the alternate training for it to meet the requirement.



We know the beginning of the school year is busy, and PTA is no exception! As you are getting your year underway, don't forget to complete your Beginning-of-Year Compliance requirements.

Each local PTA/PTSA needs to submit required forms and documentation, including your approved budget and meeting minutes, Conflict of Interest Policy Form, Basic Fiscal Management Form, proof of insurance, board member information, and training documentation. At least two board members must attend required training.

These items help ensure your PTA is organized, financially responsible, and ready to serve your school community throughout the year.

The deadline is October 1—so don't wait until the last minute!

Visit the Utah PTA website for the complete checklist, forms, instructions, and information about where to submit each item. [Beginning-of-Year Reports – Utah PTA](#)



Apply for a National PTA Grant! Get funding to increase the impact of your PTA on your community

Each year National PTA awards upwards of a million dollars in grants to local PTA's. These funds help PTA's bring programs to their schools, increase their voices in advocacy and better engage families and communities in every child's success.

Visit <https://www.pta.org/home/run-your-pta/Awards-Grants#fall> to find out about this years grants and learn how to apply for them.

Contact Utah PTA's Director of Programs at lizm@utahpta.org with any questions or for more information on writing successful grant applications

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due October 20th

Utah PTA
everychild.onevoice.

Veterans Day Essay Contest

Sponsored by Utah PTA

Open to all Military-Connected students with an immediate family member who is serving or has served in the military.

Theme: "America 250 and Me: What My Military Connection Means to Me"

Length: 500 words or less

Winners will receive a cash prize and be honored at the Utah National Guard's Veterans Day Concert in SLC on 11/11/2026

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Submit Essay via email to:
militaryfamilies@utahpta.org

Essay Contest Announced

As we celebrate America's 250th anniversary, Utah PTA invites military-connected students to share their personal stories through our 2026 Veterans Day Essay Contest.

Who: Military-connected students with an immediate family member currently serving or who has served in the U.S. Armed Forces

Theme: America 250 and Me: What My Military Connection Means to Me

Length: Up to 500 words

Deadline: October 23, 2026

Submit to: militaryfamilies@utahpta.org - include student's name, school, grade, military connection and adult contact information

Awards will be given to the winning essays during the Utah National Guards annual Veterans Day Concert in the historic Tabernacle in Downtown Salt Lake City on November 11th.

We look forward to hearing the meaningful stories of our military-connected students and honoring the families who have supported those who serve our country.



Patriotic Program Materials for Students

Looking for meaningful materials for a Constitution Day, Veterans Day, or other patriotic school program?

[Celebrating-America.org](https://celebrating-america.org) offers patriotic program resources designed for students to perform and share with their school communities.

Released September 17, the materials include a variety of resources to help students learn about and celebrate our nation. A featured addition is “I Pledge Allegiance,” a new song by Steve James created in celebration of America’s 250th Anniversary.

These resources may be a helpful starting point for PTAs working with schools to plan student performances,

family events, or other opportunities to recognize our nation’s history and traditions. Explore the available materials at [Celebrating-America.org](https://celebrating-america.org).