**Why Join a Javelina Student Organization?**

Student organizations at Texas A&M University-Kingsville have a lot to offer. Whether you join as a member or choose to lead one, simply taking part in an extracurricular group will enhance your school experience. Gaining skills, making connections, and broadening your knowledge through a student organization will help you become a well-rounded individual — one that is ready to take on their future career!

*One of the most important things in college is networking with people who share similar interests. It gives you, the chance to explore possible career opportunities and learn what it takes to reach your goals.*

*Student organizations provides students with both something and someone to relate to building up their sense of community and connection to Texas A&M-Kingsville.*

***1. Learn more about yourself.***

*Joining a student organization presents many opportunities to learn more about yourself, your goals, and your strengths. You can learn from how other students handle certain situations and test your current knowledge. You can also find your strengths, whether that is multitasking, staying organized, generating ideas, or serving others. This self-awareness will be beneficial in your future career.*

***2. Develop soft skills.***

*Soft skills are essentially “people skills” — they are skills that effectively interact with others, like communication, attitude, time management, and work ethic. Participating in a student organization not only teaches you these skills, but also helps you broaden and improve abilities you already have. You will learn the best way to communicate with both individuals and large groups, and you will gain emotional intelligence as you develop new relationships.*

***3. Learn how to work with a team.***

*Friends allow us to share our passions with people who see the world through a similar lens. However, knowing how to work well with a team is an essential skill for any career. Being in a student organization teaches you how to do this by putting you in situations where you are required to take advice from others, as well as give your own.*

***4. Get networking opportunities.***

*Another great benefit of student organizations is the opportunity to network. Meeting new students, making connections, and building relationships will all help as you meet people who share similar interests and others who do not. Networking can provide valuable skills while allowing us to expand our views of the world and grow as people. Professionally focused events are excellent opportunities for student leaders, and can often lead to potential internship or employment opportunities in the future.*

***5. Gain practical experience in a safe environment.***

*Participating in a club or an organization based around your particular area of study will give you practical experience within that field. What’s great about student clubs is that while you learn to use skills like project management, event planning, and fundraising, you get to test them out in a safe environment. Everyone is there to support you.*

***6. Use the skills you have learned in class.***

*When you join a student organization, you will be able to use these classroom-supported skills in a real world situation by applying classroom experience in your work through a student organization. Students are able to apply classroom experience in your student organizations, and develop leadership and life skills that help you become more effective in classroom team projects. Being part of a student organization allows you to test what you have learned in class and apply in real-world situations. You’ll get to learn what works and what doesn’t, and take that knowledge back to the classroom, and then, of course, your future career.*

***7. Learn how to engage with diverse groups of people.***

*Chances are the organization you choose to participate in will include a diverse group of people. You will be faced with the same situation in the working world. Learning how different people respond and react to certain situations will help you develop skills in presenting and implementing ideas. Student organizations can also provide you with the opportunity to learn about different cultural backgrounds. You will get the opportunity to see how people react to different things and you will be exposed to different ways of thinking. This opportunity will allow you to expand your mind and will benefit you for years to come.*

***8. Gain leadership skills.***

*Becoming a leader or an officer in an organization will help you develop leadership skills that will be invaluable in all areas of life. You will have the opportunity to learn public speaking, and gain confidence in yourself as an individual. While there are many positive reasons for taking on a leadership position in a student organization, the two greatest benefits are developing leadership skills and expanding your network. Holding a position in a student organization requires you to work with a team, effectively problem-solve, plan events, and interact with faculty, staff, and Alumni. Leadership will teach you patience, helps improve the way you manage your time, and will give you the opportunity to connect with fun, talented and creative individuals.*

***9. Get a break from your studies.***

*It can be difficult to manage your classes, your social life, and your extracurricular activities. Concentrating on schoolwork is obviously important but giving your mind a break is necessary and beneficial. Time management will be a priority when you join a student organization or your grades will likely suffer. Taking part in organization activities will allow you to socialize with like-minded individuals and learn as much from them as you would from your classes.*

***10. Expand your résumé.***

*There is no arguing that organizations and activities look good on a résumé. Employers love to see a candidate that has leadership skills and is a team player. Showing employers that you participated in or lead a student organization is the perfect way to show that you are hardworking and can handle multiple responsibilities. This experience not only looks great on your resume but it will also be great for discussion during an interview.*

***11. Be able to give back to the community.***

*Many student organizations provide opportunities to give back to the community, whether through acts of service, sponsoring events, or charity. Student organizations give back to the community through fun events, giving them networking opportunities and offering them a chance to have fun with their peers. Giving back to the community is the most rewarding part of being involved in a student organization. This adds an immense value to the learning experience.*

***12. Have fun!***

*Another simple reason to join a student organization is to have fun. Meeting new people, making new friends, and participating in activities will give you the opportunity to make memories that you will remember as some of the best times of your life.*