

# Scanlan Oaks Elementary PTO Membership

**We welcome all of you and encourage you to become an active participant in your child's school. Studies show that our children will be more successful if their parents are involved in their education.**

## **What does it mean to be a member?**

That depends on you. You can be a member in name only or you can become an active member. We invite you to become an active participant in your student's education by being an active participant in the SOE PTO. Parents, grandparents, neighbors, and siblings, we need your help! Being an active participant, being involved, is not synonymous with being "sucked in". The level of involvement is up to you! A small amount of time translates into a huge amount of involvement.

## **Why should I be a participating member?**

Participation through volunteering allows you to be "hands on" with your child's education. All research indicates that when families are involved, a child is more apt to get higher grades, be more likely to graduate, and go on to college. Our children love to see us in this environment where they spend seven hours a day. You get to know your children's teachers and your children's friends.

Participation through attendance at PTO meetings gives you a voice. You help decide what we do as a group. You help decide where the money should go. If you are new to SOE, the established families are available to answer questions and ease your transition into becoming a school family. If you are new to our community, we're always happy to help wherever possible. An added bonus is that you have the opportunity to meet wonderful people who can become great friends.

## **What are the benefits of membership?**

The benefits of membership are very rewarding. You have the knowledge that, with your participation and involvement, the educational and social experiences of all students at SOE will be greatly enhanced. That is in addition to the benefits listed above.

## **Is there another level of membership?**

The next level of membership is to be a voting member. Discussion, ideas and suggestions are always welcome from all members, but our bylaws allow that only members, who have paid a \$10 Membership Contribution, prior to the October meeting of the current school year, are allowed to vote during meetings or hold office on the board. This contribution could provide transportation to field trips or supplement a teacher's classroom supply order. It could also equate to the purchase of 50 glue sticks or 200 pencils. This Membership Contribution is kept local and in our schools. Voting takes place on the budget, changes in fundraising or programs, bylaws, and for board members.

## **Isn't the PTO only about fundraising?**

The SOE PTO is more than just fundraising. Fundraising is really just a necessary evil as school budgets are requiring more and more cuts. It is our privilege that we are able to provide the supplies, equipment and activities that our school budgets can no longer cover. We are only able to do that through our SOE families' willingness to participate in our fundraisers. Reindeer Run, Super Express, Spirit Wear and School Store are some of the ways that we raise money for items such as classroom supplies, literacy support, class trips, and assemblies. It also helps in funding the holiday parties, Express Day, Field Day and also family nights such as Math & Science Night and Reading & Writing Night. We are about men and women working together toward a common goal. That goal, simply stated is creating a better school and a better educational experience for our children. We strive to create an atmosphere where teachers, administrators, and support staff can do their best work - and so can our children. There's so much more that can be done and we need your help. The motto of the SOE PTO is "Many hands make light work". We look forward to seeing all that can be and will be accomplished this school year when we come together, as a group and as a community to enhance and maximize the education of every child.