



Hosting a National Advocacy Dinner

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April is National Advocacy Dinner month where PT/PTA programs throughout the country gather to share a meal and learn about APTA advocacy. This is a guide to help you set up and host a dinner at your program. Note that each dinner across the country may look a bit different and this guide serves to give you a general idea of how these dinners go and offer suggestions to customize for your program.

Materials for You

- National Advocacy Dinner slide deck with script
 - You may use this template slide deck to present during your dinner.
- National Advocacy Dinner brief video
 - This option is available for both in-person and virtual events.
- Customizable graphic
- Social media graphics

Setting It Up

- Work with your program director or other professor for help with promotion and logistics.
- Some programs ask a guest speaker who is active and knowledgeable in advocacy to join. This guest speaker could be an APTA advocate such as a Federal Affairs Liaison, or a local legislator.
- You will need to find a location for your National Advocacy Dinner. The location for your National Advocacy Dinner can vary depending on the size of your program and the space available:
 - Cafeteria or dining hall
 - Room in your program's building
 - Local restaurant or cafe
 - A park
 - Someone's house
- Food ideas
 - Charge a small fee and order food for the group.
 - Choose a simple menu for a group such as pizza and salad or sandwiches from a local deli.
 - Split checks at a restaurant.
 - See if someone will sponsor the dinner and provide food.
 - Potluck or picnic.
- Décor
 - Advocacy/patriotic themed tablecloths and centerpieces.
 - Photo booth with patriotic props.
 - Teal/white or red/white/blue plates and napkins
 - Balloons in APTA colors (teal and white) or red, white and blue or large balloons that spell out "2023" or "APTA".

In-Person Logistics

- Arrive early to your venue to set up any décor, presentation equipment and food.
- Take pictures and share on social media by tagging @APTAtweets and using #PTAdvocacy and #NAD2023
- Follow up after the dinner by thanking participants and providing the links to sign up and take action. You may use the below as a template:
 - Thank you for attending YOUR SCHOOL'S 2023 National Advocacy Dinner! Your participation in physical therapy advocacy is crucial in advancing policies that will positively impact the

profession. If you haven't [signed up to be a member of the APTA Advocacy Network or downloaded the APTA Advocacy App, now is your chance!](#) Again, if you aren't at the table, you're on the menu. For any questions, you can reach out to me at YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION or APTA Government Affairs at advocacy@apta.org.

Virtual Logistics

- Provide a Zoom or other conferencing link to participants a few days in advance.
- Log on early to make sure audio/video is working properly.
- Take pictures/screenshot and share on social media by tagging @APTAtweets and using #PTAdvocacy and #NAD2023
- Follow up after the dinner by thanking participants and providing the links to sign up and take action. You may use the below as a template:
 - Thank you for attending YOUR SCHOOL'S 2023 National Advocacy Dinner! Your participation in physical therapy advocacy is crucial in advancing policies that will positively impact the profession. If you haven't [signed up to be a member of the APTA Advocacy Network or downloaded the APTA Advocacy App, now is your chance!](#) Again, if you aren't at the table, you're on the menu. For any questions, you can reach out to me at YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION or APTA Government Affairs at advocacy@apta.org.

National Advocacy Dinner Sample Flow

- Welcome
- Presentation
- Guest Speaker (if applicable)
- Questions/Discussion
- Networking/social time

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Contact: advocacy@apta.org