



# Hosting a National Advocacy Dinner

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April is National Advocacy Dinner Month, when PT and PTA education 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 — this guide gives you a general idea of how these dinners go and offers suggestions for customizing your program.

## Materials

- 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, an active APTA advocate, or a local legislator.
- Find a location for the dinner. The location can vary depending on the size of your program and the space available, but these are some suggestions:
  - Cafeteria or dining hall.
  - Room in your program's building.
  - Local restaurant or café.
  - Outdoor space such as 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 and patriotic themed tablecloths and centerpieces.
  - Photo booth with patriotic props.
  - APTA teal and white, or red, white, and blue plates and napkins.
  - Balloons in APTA teal and white, or red, white, and blue, or large balloons that spell out "2022" 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 #NAD2022.
- Follow up after the dinner by thanking participants and providing the links to sign up and take action. Here's some sample language:

“Thank you for attending [YOUR SCHOOL]’s 2022 National Advocacy Dinner! Your participation in physical therapy advocacy is crucial to 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!](#) Remember, 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](mailto: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 and video are working properly.
- Take pictures and screenshots and share on social media by tagging @APTAtweets and using #PTAdvocacy and #NAD2022.
- Follow up after the dinner by thanking participants and providing the links to sign up and take action. Here’s some boilerplate language:

“Thank you for attending [YOUR SCHOOL]’s 2022 National Advocacy Dinner! Your participation in physical therapy advocacy is crucial to 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!](#) Remember, 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](mailto:advocacy@apta.org).

### National Advocacy Dinner Sample Flow

- Welcome.
- Presentation.
- Guest speaker (if applicable).
- Questions and discussion.
- Networking and social time.
- Closing/closing remarks.

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