



# 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

- These materials will be available on the National Advocacy Dinner webpage: <https://www.apta.org/for-students/student-involvement/national-advocacy-dinners>
  - National Advocacy Dinner slide deck with script
  - 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 "2024" 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
- 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 2024 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](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/video is working properly.
- Take pictures/screenshot and share on social media by tagging @APTAtweets and using #PTAdvocacy
- 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 2024 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](mailto:advocacy@apta.org).

## National Advocacy Dinner Sample Flow

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

**Last Updated:** 03/11/2024  
**Contact:** [advocacy@apta.org](mailto:advocacy@apta.org)