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TSNA NEWS MARCH 2026

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT:

Dear TSNA Members,

Spring always brings a renewed sense of energy, and I'm excited about what's ahead for TSNA in the coming months – especially our 2026 Annual Conference, June 15–18 in Gatlinburg.

This year's theme, "Feeding America's Future: One Tray at a Time," perfectly captures the heart of what we do. Every meal we serve, every connection we make with students, and every innovation we bring to our programs shapes the future in meaningful ways. Our annual conference is where that passion comes together – for learning, networking, celebrating excellence, and returning home re-energized for the year ahead.

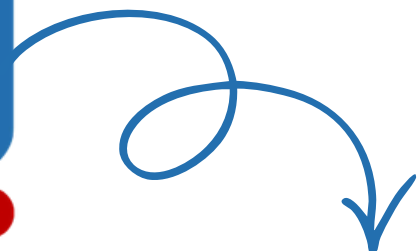
This month also brings the School Nutrition Association's Legislative Action Conference (LAC), an important opportunity for school nutrition professionals to advocate at the federal level. Events like LAC remind us that our voices matter. When we share our experiences and highlight the realities of serving students every day, we help shape policies that strengthen our programs and support the children and communities we serve.

Thank you for the work you do to feed Tennessee's future – one tray at a time. I hope to see you in Gatlinburg this June!

**WITH GRATITUDE,
CINDY STEPHENS
PRESIDENT, TENNESSEE SCHOOL NUTRITION ASSOCIATION**



**LEARN
MORE
BELOW!**



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UPCOMING EVENTS:

Director, Manager & Employee of the Year Awards
March 1, 2026

Legislative Action Conference
March 8-10, 2026

TSNA's Thelma Flanagan Award
March 15, 2026

TSNA's Helen B. Smith Award
March 15, 2026

TSNA's Health Now Award
March 15, 2026

TSNA's Nutrition & Wellness Award
March 15, 2026

WANT TO REP TSNA?

Check out the emporium on our website to order your Tennessee School Nutrition Association merch, including past conference merch!

REGISTRATION IS OPEN!

Attendees and Vendors click the corresponding link below to secure your spot in Gatlinburg!

[Attendees Registration](#)

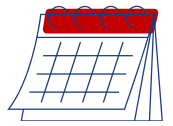
[Vendor Registration](#)



BOOK YOUR STAY IN GATLINBURG:

We are happy to offer a variety of lodging options for our 2026 Annual Conference attendees! Click [here](#) to explore various hotels near the Gatlinburg Convention Center that have a room block rate for June 14-18.

CHECK OUT WHAT'S IN STORE:



Explore what's in store for our 2026 Annual Conference by clicking [here](#). Get ready for four days full of networking, learning, and fun! It's never too early to begin planning.

TSNA ROCK THE CONFERENCE!



Let's add creativity, inspiration, and a little fun to our June 2026 TSNA Conference! In the spirit of Rosie the Riveter and our empowering theme, we invite all TSNA members to participate in a special conference activity:

“WE CAN DO IT - FEEDING AMERICA'S FUTURE ONE TRAY AT A TIME”

How to Join the Fun:

1. **Find a rock or rocks** – any size or shape that speaks to you.
2. **Paint or decorate your rock(s)** to reflect our theme. Think bold colors, motivational messages, or Rosie-inspired artwork!
3. **Bring your rock(s)** with you to the June 2026 Conference.
4. **Hide your painted rock(s)** throughout the conference center for others to discover—spreading encouragement, smiles, and reminders of the important work we do every day.

Each painted rock will serve as a symbol of strength, unity, and pride in our shared mission. Together, we can lift one another up and continue to make a difference—one tray (and one rock!) at a time.

ALREADY PAINTING ROCKS?

Any district that has already begun painting rocks is encouraged to send photos to [**info@tnsna.com**](mailto:info@tnsna.com). These photos will be shared and published to inspire other districts across Tennessee to join the fun!

So grab your paint brushes, roll up your sleeves, and show your TSNA spirit...**Because WE CAN DO IT!**

OUR MISSION:
Our mission is to empower and support school nutrition professionals in advancing the accessibility, quality, and integrity of school nutrition programs.

SNA AWARDS:
Nominations are officially open for the 2026 SNA Awards! Nominate yourself or a fellow colleague for the Employee, Manager, or Director of the Year awards. Click [here](#) to learn more and submit your nominations.

SNF
SCHOOL NUTRITION FOUNDATION

Last year, the School Nutrition Foundation awarded over 100 scholarships to SNA members. They awarded scholarships for conferences, professional development, and equipment grants. Donating to SNF is easy and even small donations can make a difference. You can make donations online at: [click here](#).

TSNA SCHOLARSHIPS & AWARDS



CELEBRATE EXCELLENCE IN SCHOOL NUTRITION!

The Tennessee School Nutrition Association is pleased to announce that applications for 2026 TSNA Scholarships and Awards are now open! This is your opportunity to shine, be recognized for your hard work, and invest in your professional development. Whether you're a school nutrition employee, manager, or director— there's something for everyone.

TSNA SCHOLARSHIPS:

These scholarships are a wonderful way to advance your education, enhance your skills, and bring new ideas back to your school nutrition team. Don't miss your chance — click [here](#) to explore both of our scholarships!

TSNA AWARDS:

Recognizing outstanding achievement! TSNA also honors members and teams whose work exemplifies excellence, leadership, and innovation in school nutrition. Awards celebrate accomplishments at many levels and are a great way to spotlight individuals and programs that are making a difference across Tennessee. Click each award below to view the forms.

[HELEN B. SMITH AWARD](#)

[HEALTH NOW AWARD](#)

[NUTRITION & WELLNESS AWARD](#)

ALL AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS MUST BE SUBMITTED BY MARCH 15, 2026.

WHY APPLY?

Our TSNA scholarships and awards celebrate the passion, dedication, and professionalism that drive school nutrition every day. These recognitions not only honor your hard work but help you invest in continuing education, leadership development, and program excellence — strengthening school nutrition across Tennessee.

Visit the TSNA Awards & Scholarships page for full details and application forms: **[TSNA Awards & Scholarships](#)**. For more information, contact Vonda Bradford at **Vonda.bradford@fcstn.net**.

JOIN OUR SUBSCRIPTION LIST!

We're excited to share that TSNA now has a new, easy subscription link for receiving TSNA newsletters and official communications!

TSNA members can simply click the link, complete the brief sign-up form, and be automatically added to our mailing list. Once subscribed, members will receive important updates, announcements, and information sent on behalf of TSNA—all in one place.

A special thank you to Josh and MarLea for their work in getting this subscription process set up for our association.

[CLICK HERE TO SIGN UP!](#)

Be sure to share this link with colleagues so no one misses out on important TSNA news and opportunities!