



Hosting a National Advocacy Dinner

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April is National Advocacy Dinner month, when PT/PTA programs across the country host events to share a meal and learn about APTA advocacy. This guide helps you set up and host your dinner. Each event may be a little different, but these steps provide a general outline and ideas to customize for your program.

Suggested Materials

These resources will be available on the National Advocacy Dinner webpage:

[National Advocacy Dinner Resources](#)

- National Advocacy Dinner slide deck with script
- Customizable promotional flyer
- Table tent card

Setting It Up

- **Get Help:** Work with your program director or professor for promotion and logistics.
- **Invite a Guest Speaker:** Some programs invite a guest speaker who is active in advocacy, such as an APTA advocate or a local legislator.
 - Contact Laura Keivel at laurakeivel@apta.org for speaker suggestions.
- **Choose a Venue:** The location depends on your program's size and available space. Possible venues include:
 - Cafeteria or dining hall
 - Program's building room
 - Local restaurant or café
 - A park
 - Someone's home

Food Ideas

- Serve simple meals like pizza, salad, or sandwiches.
- Consider a potluck or picnic
- Split checks at a restaurant.
- Seek a sponsor for the meal.
- Charge a small fee and order food for the group.

Décor:

- Use advocacy or patriotic-themed tablecloths and centerpieces.
- Create a photo booth with props.
- Use teal/white or red/white/blue plates and napkins.
- Decorate with APTA-colored balloons (teal and white) or red, white, and blue.

In-Person Logistics

- **Set Up:** Arrive early to arrange décor, presentation equipment, and food.
- **Social Media:** Take photos and share on social media by tagging @APTA_official and using #PTAdvocacy.
- **Follow Up:** Thank participants after the event and share links to sign up and take action. Use this template for your message:

"Thank you for attending YOUR SCHOOL'S 2025 National Advocacy Dinner! Your participation in PT advocacy is key to advancing policies that benefit the profession. If you haven't signed up for the [APTA Advocacy Network](#) or downloaded the APTA Advocacy App, now is your chance! Remember, if you're not at the table, you're on the menu. For questions, contact me at YOUR CONTACT or reach APTA Government Affairs at advocacy@apta.org."

Virtual Logistics

- **Link:** Send the Zoom or other conference link a few days in advance.
- **Check Equipment:** Log on early to ensure everything is working properly.
- **Social Media:** Take screenshots and share on social media by tagging @APTA_official and using #PTAdvocacy.
- **Follow Up:** Use the same thank-you template as for in-person events.

Sample Event Flow

- Welcome
- Presentation
- Guest Speaker (if applicable)
- Questions/Discussion
- Networking/Social Time

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Contact: advocacy@apta.org