

## **Chapter 4: Recruiting Parents**

**Have a Parents' Night meeting early in the school year.** Make this an informational meeting by telling them about the activity, the tournament calendar, practice and tournament requirements for the students, etc. Have some students perform a few minutes of their pieces. Offer refreshments. And **ask for their help.**

### **Why they should help:**

1. Because a teenager's success is so dependent on his parents' interest.
2. Because they have skills and time that the coach doesn't have.
3. Many of them were very active in volunteering at the elementary schools and now feel disassociated because there's little help needed at the high school level.
4. Because competitive forensics is so different from every other extra-curricular activity, their involvement will help them understand the hours their students spend individually, in practice sessions, and on tournament days

### **How they can help:**

1. Getting their students up early on Saturday mornings and to the bus on time!
2. Judging at tournaments.
3. Providing transportation to and from tournaments.
4. Fund-raising projects, including asking for donations from organizations they may be involved with or from their places of work.
5. Providing refreshments for team meetings.
6. Handling breakfast and lunch sales when the coach hosts a practice tournament.
7. Supervising hallways during overnight tournaments.
8. Helping with the end-of-the-year banquet.

**Is there a need to form a Parents' Organization (sometimes called Boosters)?** Some school districts will permit this; others won't. A Parents' Organization is created to help with all aspects of a forensic team, but especially the financial aspects. Officers are elected; the parents help or supervise directly the variety of fund-raising projects for the team. All money that comes in from these projects is put into a bank account controlled by the Parents (if the school district permits this); this money does not go into the normal school district activity accounts. Although the coach does not have to fill out purchase orders for a Parents' Organization, there still needs to be a budget established and a procedure for the coach to get money to pay for tournament registration, judges' fees, resource materials, and the other items necessary to run a team. The coaches' name usually is not on the list of approved signers for checks. There must be a good relationship between the coaches and the parents for this set up to work well.