

## Tips for starting a new SNATS Chapter

1. Students or NATS members may start a SNATS Chapter. The chapter will need an advisor (or co-advisors) and a minimum of five students to establish a chapter.
2. Any Associate or Full member of NATS in good standing may act as an advisor.
3. Go to [Chapter Application](#) and follow the instructions for establishing a new SNATS Chapter. Email questions to [vpoutreach@nats.org](mailto:vpoutreach@nats.org).
4. Create your chapter's board of directors. Typically that means holding elections for president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer, although some chapters choose to elect co-presidents and/or combine the secretary/treasurer position. The board may also decide to create and appoint additional board positions such as program and membership development positions. Each individual chapter determines the size and scope of their board; however chapters are strongly encouraged to create a board of at least 3 in order to share the workload.
5. Your board is encouraged to develop a Mission Statement. Often the mission statement can help you in crafting your organization's constitution. See 6. (See [Sample Mission Statements](#))
6. Check out your institution's requirements for becoming an official college/university club/organization. Frequently there is an application process that includes creating a constitution. (See [Sample Constitutions](#))
7. SNATS members are not members of NATS; therefore SNATS members do not pay national dues.
8. Determine whether or not your chapter will charge membership dues. Again, this may depend on your institution's requirements for official club/organization standing; but it is recommended you charge at least a nominal fee of even \$5 for membership. Members who pay a fee for membership tend to be more committed to the organization's well being. Each individual chapter determines the dues amount.
9. Once you have completed steps 1-8 and received notification of official chapter status from the NATS Vice President for Outreach, go to "[Tips for running and maintaining your SNATS Chapter.](#)"

FYI: NATS has created a [new student level membership](#). While your SNATS Chapter provides opportunities for its members to meet, hold events, and learn through group activities, a student membership in NATS provides individuals many of the same benefits enjoyed by associate and full NATS members, but at a reduced rate. A student membership will also lay the groundwork for one's path towards full membership in NATS through continued lifelong learning in the art of singing and teaching.