

Sharing Our Success (SOS) Submission Form

Chapter Name:	St. Louis
Chapter Membership Size:	Medium (100-249)
Chapter Contact Person:	Nikki Thompson
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Phone Number:	
Chapter Board Position:	President
Chapter Website URL:	atdstl.org
Submission Title:	"From Networking to Nature: Reimagining Connection Through Experiential Learning"
What did you do? (a 2-3 sentence summary of your effort):	We hosted a "Networking in Nature" community hike that brought members together in an outdoor setting to foster authentic connection, wellness, and engagement. The event combined informal networking with a shared experience, creating space for meaningful conversations beyond traditional professional settings. It also incorporated a give-back element, reinforcing our commitment to both community connection and impact.
Who benefitted from this effort (Target Audience) Check all that apply:	☐ Chapter Members ☐ Board Members ☐ Chapter Volunteers ☐ Chapter Sponsors ☐ Chapter Partners ☐ Potential Chapter Members ☐ Non-Chapter Members
Why did you do it? What chapter needs were addressed?	We created this event to address a growing need for more authentic, low-pressure ways for members to connect beyond traditional classroom-style programs. Feedback showed a desire for stronger community, increased engagement, and opportunities that support both professional growth and personal well-being. This initiative met those needs by offering an inclusive, accessible experience that fostered meaningful relationships, expanded our reach, and reinforced a sense of belonging within the chapter.

What were the measurable outcomes? (May include data regarding financial gains, membership increases, target audience satisfaction levels, publicity for the chapter or for the profession, etc.)	The event resulted in strong engagement, with high attendance and participation from both members and non-members, helping expand our reach and visibility within the community. Post-event feedback indicated high satisfaction, with participants highlighting the value of authentic connection and the unique, low-pressure environment. Additionally, the event generated increased interest in future programming and contributed to new member inquiries and ongoing engagement with the chapter.
What steps did you take to implement this effort? (Remember that other chapter leaders will use this to replicate the effort. Be specific)	We started by identifying member feedback indicating a desire for more informal, connection-focused events, then selected a local park and designed a simple, low-cost hiking experience that would be accessible to all fitness levels. We partnered across the board (programming, communications, and community development) to promote the event through email, social media, and word-of-mouth, while also incorporating a give-back element to deepen purpose and engagement. On the day of the event, we facilitated light structure (welcome, prompts for connection, optional group moments) while keeping the experience flexible and organic, and we followed up with a brief survey to capture feedback and measure impact for future replication.
Is there anything you would do differently?	We would enhance our data capture by implementing a more structured check-in process to better track attendance and measure engagement. While we successfully facilitated introductions and shared event photos online to extend visibility, we would also incorporate a more intentional post-event follow-up (such as a quick connection recap or resource share) to further sustain engagement and deepen relationships beyond the event.
When did you start working on this effort?	May 02, 2026
When did this effort go live?	Apr 01, 2026
Approximately how many hours were spent working on this? Include an estimate of hours spent across all board members and volunteers.	2
What resources did you use? Check all that apply:	Board Members

Which board positions were involved in the effort?	VP of Community Engagement, President, Director of Partnerships
Do you have any additional insights to share with other chapters implementing this effort?	Keep it simple and intentional-this type of event doesn't require a large budget or heavy structure to be successful. The magic comes from creating a welcoming, low-pressure environment where people feel comfortable showing up as themselves, so focus on accessibility, clear communication, and light facilitation (like introductions) to spark connection. Also, don't underestimate the power of blending professional development with wellness and community impact. Offering something different from traditional programs can attract new audiences, re-engage existing members, and strengthen your chapter's sense of belonging in a way that's both meaningful and sustainable.
Please attach any documents that help support this submission. It is highly encouraged to submit editable files (ex. Word, Excel, etc): (additional documents and documents over 2MB should be sent to sos@td.org)	https://www.formstack.com/admin/download/file/19496064510
How did you become familiar with the Sharing Our Success (SOS) program? Select all that apply:	National Advisors for Chapters (NAC)
Would you be willing to apply to present on this submission at the ATD Chapter Leaders Conference (ALC)? *Request for Proposals (RFPs) open in October of each year at td.org/alc. Selected session facilitators receive complimentary registration.	Yes
email_consent	true