



Chapter Membership Questions and Answers

Q: How do I explain the importance of a ThinkFirst Chapter to my administration?

A: It is important for your organization to have a ThinkFirst injury prevention chapter for several reasons:

- As injury is the leading cause of death for children, teens and young adults, educating the community on preventing injuries is the responsible action to take to help reduce injuries and their related costs
- ThinkFirst injury prevention programs compliment other service lines, such as neuroscience, trauma and pediatrics, and are valued community education programs for Magnet Status and other quality and award measures
- ThinkFirst chapters fill the need for Trauma Department injury prevention requirements, as well as charitable giving expectations
- Marketing: Your ThinkFirst presentations and safety events provide a valued source of media attention addressing pertinent health and safety issues with a strong human interest component
- ThinkFirst programs meet state health standards for health education requirements for schools, making you a valuable resource to the schools in your community

Evidence-based programs: As a valued injury prevention department or program, it is important to offer evidence-based programs such as those ThinkFirst provides. This is far more cost effective than producing and revising your own curricula, videos and other program aids. As a ThinkFirst chapter, you are able to refer to a number of research studies published by various chapters that support the effectiveness of the ThinkFirst programs you offer. Our efficacy committee provides evaluation tools and guidance to chapters.

Chapter prices: Chapters have the benefit of reduced chapter prices on all ThinkFirst products and ThinkFirst conference fees. The purchase savings of 3 sets of the ThinkFirst for Youth Curriculum at chapter price will already pay for your \$300.00 annual membership fee.

Chapter-exclusive products: Certain products are available only to ThinkFirst chapters, including the VIP training video and the ThinkFirst For Teens PowerPoint presentation.

Information Source: ThinkFirst strives to share timely, pertinent, injury prevention and funding information with chapters through our website, newsletters and monthly e-blasts.

Marketing: From a marketing standpoint, being recognized as a nationally known ThinkFirst chapter carries more appeal and recognition from not only the schools and the community, but also potential funders you might be approaching for grants or donations. The ThinkFirst Foundation has been funded by, and is highly recognized by organizations such as the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), which funds state grants that may be available to you. Other partners include Schwinn, Paralyzed Veterans Association (PVA), The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and others.

Web links: Your chapter is encouraged to send us your link for the ThinkFirst website, offering world-wide exposure for your chapter and organization. You may also add www.thinkfirst.org to your resource list under injury prevention.

Referrals: The ThinkFirst Foundation and your state chapter director receive requests on a regular basis for information on chapters in their communities. Through these referrals, and by being listed on the ThinkFirst website, physicians, nurses, students, families, individuals, schools and businesses learn about your chapter and organization.

When you compare the recognition, exposure and benefits of your ThinkFirst affiliation to the price of a single media advertisement, your \$300.00 annual membership fee is a pretty good deal!

Q: What do I need to do to maintain status as a ThinkFirst Chapter and continue offering ThinkFirst programs?

A: Chapters receive an annual Chapter Membership invoice for \$300 each May, required by July 31st each year. Chapters are also required to complete the Annual ThinkFirst Survey that is available online each June to be completed by July 31. The survey collects information on ThinkFirst programs given, number of people served, updates in contact information, and other information to help us serve you better.

Q: Why is there a late fee of \$50.00?

A: The late fee is not set to make money, but to cover our follow-up costs and encourage all chapters to meet the deadline. We report the number of active chapters based on the number of chapters who are paid and in good standing and we take the accuracy of our reports seriously. If we do not have all memberships in a timely fashion, numbers reported in our fall newsletters, articles and letters that may go to print as early as August will be inaccurate, making it look as though we have lost chapters. The July 31st deadline is the same each year so chapters can plan for it. Invoices are sent 2 months prior to the payment deadline.

Q: Are new chapters required to pay the annual membership fee?

A: The chapter application fee is \$1,500.00, which includes application, training and materials for starting a chapter. The \$300 annual membership fee will be due the first July 31st after your application has been approved and qualifies you as a member through the following June.

Q: If an existing chapter replaces the chapter director, what is required?

A: New chapter directors who are replacing the director of an existing chapter are required to submit the Chapter Director/Sponsoring Physician Change Form with the \$250.00 training fee to the ThinkFirst Foundation and receive training through a designated ThinkFirst trainer, either onsite (some trainer expenses may apply), online, or by attending the Chapter Training Day at a ThinkFirst conference or other event. Contact your State Chapter Director or the ThinkFirst Foundation for assistance in scheduling training most convenient to you.

For further questions, please contact us anytime.

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