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**Ideas to Celebrate School Social Work Week**

**District/School Ideas**

* **In August,** send dates to your local union and district office to include in school calendar. (SSW Week is always the first full week of March.)
* Send a “thank you for your support” email to teachers and the principal
* Provide small item and note in teacher's mailbox thanking them for their support
* Provide small item to your SISP team thanking them for their assistance & teamwork.
* Host an "Open House" in your office so staff can see what you do!
* Set up a table or poster board including pictures and resources regarding School Social Work and the work you are doing in your school(s) (be sure to have appropriate permissions for any students in photos).
* Display a School Social Work Week poster around your school and community.
* Commit “random acts of chocolate” all week for staff.
* Make a sign or post information in the teachers’ lounge
* Add a special “School Social Work Week” message/inspiring saying as part of your email signature
* Have a party for the students you see to thank them for being great kids to work with
* Have students make cards/posters about SSW. Display on your office door, department, teachers’ lounge,
* Bring in a dessert for lunch to share with staff
* Present at a faculty meeting on topics like mental health, bullying, suicide prevention, substance abuse, etc.
* Host a “Lunch & Learn” session for staff regarding your role or a topic of importance
* Send yourself flowers, or better yet, have someone else send flowers to your school for you (maybe your principal will get the hint)!
* Have principal acknowledge your contribution during faculty meeting
* Invite a Board Member or District Administrator to lunch to talk about the role of School Social Workers
* Send thank you notes or emails to other SSWs in your district
* Contact special education director/district level supervisor to thank them for

 supporting your work

* Exchange "Secret SSW" gifts with other SSWs during the week
* Have Superintendent/School Board recognize the important role of School Social Workers at a School Board Meeting

**Social Media:**

* Get involved on social media.
* Participate on NYSSSWA’s Social Media Campaign (See [School Social Work Week page)](http://nyssswa.org/school-social-work-week/)
* Check out posts on NYSSSWA’s [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/nyssswa/)
* Search Instagram, Facebook, Twitter and other social media for #socialworker or #schoolsocialworker and see what comes up.
* Post something on social media every day
* Share pictures of you and other staff/School Social Workers and SSW Week activities
* Check out Pinterest for School Social Work sites and/or create your own

**Advocacy:**

* Email and/or call your state and national legislators advocating on policies affecting the students and families we serve
* Provide information regarding the role of School Social Workers to staff, parents and/or media
* Present to the school board or at a staff meeting acknowledging SSW Week and your job (bring data)
* Write an article for the district/school newspaper or newsletter on a timely topic that highlights services provided by School Social Workers
* Introduce yourself to local media who write about or report on issues important to SSW
* Email them useful resources
* Follow them on Twitter
* Comment on their blogs
* Be resource on important topics impacting students
* Write a short description of School Social Work for a local paper acknowledging SSW Week
* Write a letter to the Editor

**Taking Care of You:**

* **Join or renew your membership** with the [**New York State School Social Workers’ Association**](https://nyssswa.org/join-nyssswa/) (state) as well as the [**School Social Work Association of America**](https://www.sswaa.org/membership) (national) to support the profession of School Social Work and all of the important work that is being done on your behalf.
* Dress up (professionally) the whole week or one day to celebrate SSW Week
* Smile all week and remember how important and valuable your work is
* Wear a silly hat all week
* Treat yourself by taking time for YOU! Get a massage, meet a friend, read a book, do something you enjoy.
* Organize a School Social Worker get-together after school!!