



# HELPFUL TIPS FOR YOUR ADVISOR

TCCA is a youth-led initiative and the role of the advisor is to be a mentor. A chapter advisor helps guide the chapter leaders through decision making processes, helps brainstorm through challenges, provide consultation on finances and legal matters, and serves as the bridge between TCCA and Tzu Chi local branch offices.

Every chapter is unique, and we encourage each chapter advisor to adjust your roles and responsibilities according to the real needs. It is important to have an honest conversation between chapter leaders and chapter advisor at the beginning of the school year to discuss the capacity of a chapter advisor, the type of help needed from the chapter, and the expectation from each other.

Being an advisor is not to lead the chapter directly but to empower the student leaders to succeed. Below are some tips to chapter advisors to have a successful relationship with chapter leaders:

## MAKE YOURSELF AVAILABLE

The most successful chapters are the ones that have active chapter advisors. Advisors can help recruit members, bring valuable input in the chapter meetings, and help the team stay accountable to your goals. Make sure to allocate enough time to attend chapter meetings, events, and other engagement opportunities.

## EMPOWER THE CHAPTER LEADERS BY OFFERING VALUABLE FEEDBACK

You should keep yourself up to date with the chapter, establish the ways in effective communication: in writing, through meetings, via text or phone calls, and offer constructive feedback to chapter leaders to help them grow.

## PROVIDE A SENSE OF FAMILY

In Tzu Chi we build a volunteer group that feels like a family. We hope chapter advisors could help to foster this core value in TCCA chapters.

## KEEP IT GOING

Chapter Advisors play an important role in chapter leadership selection and transition. Make sure to have a practical leadership election procedure and sound transition plan.

## BE A ROLE MODEL

Often times, Tzu Ching look up to their chapter advisors on how to behave in a Tzu Chi environment, interact with people, or when making difficult decisions. We encourage chapter advisors to be a good role model to provide positive influences to the chapter members.

## STAY CONNECTED WITH TZU CHI USA

Remember to serve as the bridge between your chapter and Tzu Chi. Having a good relationship with the local Tzu Chi office will benefit your chapter in a tremendous way. Help your chapter to meet the requirements from the local Tzu Chi office as well.

## PARTICIPATE IN THE ADVISOR NETWORK

Please stay connected with the national TCCA advisor network. Exchange ideas, support each other and grow together.

