Want to have a blast while exploring chemistry? Several thousand student members of more than 350 American Chemical Society (ACS) ChemClubs located throughout the United States and Puerto Rico do just that during the school year. Any high school can start an ACS ChemClub—all it takes is an advisor, a group of interested students, and the support of your school.

ACS offers tons of free resources to active, chartered Clubs, such as demonstrations, experiments, and other activities to try, along with bonus items such as T-shirts and copies of ChemMatters, the magazine you are reading now.

What do ChemClub students do? They participate in activities during and after school, get involved in community building, learn about chemistry careers, enjoy social events, and learn how chemistry plays a role in our everyday lives.

Last year, ChemClub students used liquid nitrogen to make their own Dippin’ Dots ice cream at a holiday party, raised money to purchase water purification packets to send to third-world countries so children there can have safe drinking water, and created a Halloween Haunted Hall with a chemistry theme for the community.

Students from Dr. Pedro Perea Fajardo School having fun with chemistry demonstrations.

ChemClub students from Valley Central High School in Montgomery, N.Y., created a periodic table out of cupcakes, with atomic symbols made with either icing or candy.

This fall, ChemClub members will join thousands of students around the world as they participate in the International Year of Chemistry (IYC) Global Water Experiment. They can try one or more of four experiments, testing the acidity and salinity of water samples they collect, building a water filtration unit, and designing a solar still. Then, they will report their results to the IYC Web site (http://water.chemistry2011.org/web/iyc).

Interested in helping to start a ChemClub at your school? Want to learn more? Find more information about ACS ChemClubs at: http://www.acs.org/chemclub.