TEXAS CRIME STOPPERS AMBASSADORS PROGRAM

Texas Crime Stoppers Ambassador Program Leader
Erin Cole, Office of the Governor
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The Crime Stoppers Ambassador Program is a student-based leadership program for Texas youth involved in their Crime Stoppers community across the state. The program consists of 12 students and one alternate who are carefully chosen and tasked with setting leadership standards of excellence among their peer groups, acting as role models on their campuses and in their communities, and are also required to complete a series of projects over the course of a calendar year.

MISSION STATEMENT
To encourage positive relationships between Campus Crime Stoppers and our communities and inspire lasting changes within individuals through our leadership and unity.

AMBASSADOR PROGRAM OBJECTIVE:
The primary objective of the Crime Stoppers Ambassador Program is to shape young leaders in the Texas Crime Stoppers community. The aim of the program is to establish a network of informed and influential students throughout Texas who can actively represent Crime Stoppers while building a proficient skill set and gaining leadership experience.

Ambassadors are selected to represent their peers all over the state and serve as the youth voice for Crime Stoppers in Texas. Ambassadors are expected to exhibit a high degree of maturity, responsibility, flexibility, and leadership at all times.

SELECTION PROCESS:
There are twelve Ambassadors appointed to the program. Those selected as an ambassador remain in the program until/unless the follow occurs:

1. Ambassador graduates from high school,
2. Ambassador submits termination of involvement in writing to Program Leader
3. Ambassador fails to attend a campus conference, or
4. Ambassador is asked to resign by Ambassador Program Leader.

The number of Ambassadors selected each year during the conference is based upon Ambassador vacancies. Applicants must be in the eighth, ninth, tenth or eleventh grade at the time of application. Application forms must be complete to be considered for selection.

Applications must be submitted via email by Friday, January 12, 2024
Email to Erin Cole at erin.cole@gov.texas.gov. Applicants will be notified if selected for a panel interview.

Upon receipt of your completed application, you will be scheduled for an interview with the selection panel. Interviews are held Tuesday, February 13, 2024, starting at 9:30 AM. Decisions will be announced at the awards ceremony.

INTERVIEW PROCESS: A panel of up to four judges, selected by the state office, will conduct interviews. Applicants are expected to dress business casual and conduct themselves appropriately during the interview. Questions regarding basic knowledge of Crime Stoppers and the Ambassador program as well as leadership abilities.

Each applicant will be given an opportunity to share further information or ask questions during the panel interviews. We encourage applicants to use these interviews to explain why they would be a good candidate as an ambassador based on their experience and goals. For questions, please contact the Program Leader (see contact information above). Good luck to all applicants!
AMBASSADOR CODE OF CONDUCT:
Appropriate behavior is required at all times during the conference, in your school, and in your community.

Dress Appropriately
Business Casual is the acceptable dress code for Ambassadors. This includes clothing such as collared shirts, slacks, skirts, nice denim jeans (no holes), khaki pants, dresses and sweaters. Unacceptable clothing includes t-shirts (unless part of a two-layered ensemble), spaghetti strap tops, sweatshirts, sweatpants, shorts, exercise clothes, or torn clothing. Not every possible clothing consideration has been listed. Good judgment will prevail, and immediate feedback will be provided should something be considered unacceptable. Remember: Ambassadors are role models and are expected to positively represent your school and the state.

Be Respectful
Ambassadors are working with others as a team. Be considerate of how actions or contributions affect your fellow ambassadors, students, and the community as a whole. Treat one another and conference participants with respect. Ambassadors may not always agree, but disagreement is no excuse for poor behavior or poor manners. The important goal is not to avoid disagreements or differing views but to resolve them constructively. Seek advice to help you determine which direction will be most acceptable.

Be Collaborative
Being an ambassador is about collaboration and working together. Collaboration reduces work redundancy and improves the quality of the conference for everyone. When you are unsure, ask for help. Nobody knows everything and nobody is expected to be perfect. Asking questions avoids many problems down the road so questions are encouraged. Those who are asked should be responsive and helpful.

Be Honest
Sometimes the hardest thing to say is "no" or admit you have forgotten to do something. Be honest with each other and yourself regarding what you say and what you can realistically commit to.

Be On Time
Be on time to all scheduled meetings, courses, and other appointed locations. Being on time shows that you are responsible and that you have excellent time management skills. If you are late, you may miss important information, you disrupt the class or meeting, and it is a sign of disrespect.

Ending Your Ambassadorship
Ambassadors may at any time, for whatever reason, decide to terminate their position. Notice of such a decision should be communicated in writing as soon as possible to Texas Crime Stoppers Ambassador Program Leader.

Dismissal of an Ambassador
Ambassadors who do not adhere to the rules and agreements are subject to dismissal. No Ambassador will be terminated until the Ambassador and the sponsor has an opportunity to discuss the reasons for possible dismissal with the Texas Crime Stoppers staff. Possible grounds for dismissal may include, but are not limited to, the following: gross misconduct, theft of property or misuse of materials, abuse or mistreatment of conference attendees, staff or other volunteers, and failure to abide by policies and procedures set by the Code of Conduct.

If you use profanity, vulgarity, threats, derogatory reference to nationality, gender, religion, or personal characteristics at any time, either in person or by posting in any social media such as Facebook, Twitter, email, or any other means of electronic communication at ANY time, you will be asked to seek your community service elsewhere and Texas Crime Stoppers will be obligated to contact your sponsor and your parents. This is a ZERO TOLERANCE policy.

Use of tobacco, alcohol, or illegal drugs at ANY time will be cause for immediate dismissal, and Texas Crime Stoppers Training will contact your sponsor, your school, and your parents. This is a ZERO TOLERANCE policy.
APPLICANT INFORMATION

Name: ____________________________________________
(Last) (First) (Middle Initial)

Address: _________________________________________
(Street Address or P.O. Box)

City: ___________________________ Zip Code: ______________

Applicant E-mail Address: ________________________________

Phone Number: _______________ Age: __________ DOB: __________ Gender: __________

School Name: _________________________________________

School Address: _______________________________________
(Street Address or P.O. Box)

School Phone: ____________________________

Applicants Grade Level: ____________________________ Applicants Grade Point Average: _______/________

Applicants Expected Year of Graduation: ____________________________

Crime Stoppers Organization Name: ____________________________

Current Position on Crime Stoppers Board: ____________________________
(i.e. new to crime stoppers, member, secretary, board member etc.)

How long have you been involved in a campus Crime Stoppers Organization? ____________________________

APPLICANT PARENT/GUARDIAN INFORMATION

Name: ____________________________________________ Relation to Applicant: _________________________
(Last) (First)

E-mail Address: ____________________________ Phone Number: _________________
**APPLICATION**

List your IN-SCHOOL activities from the past three years. Include leadership positions you have held. (i.e. choir, band, school clubs, etc.)

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List your OUT-OF-SCHOOL activities from the past three years. Include leadership positions you have held. (i.e. volunteer work, church involvement, etc)

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List all SPORTs activities participated inside and outside of school, if any.

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1. How long have you been apart a crime stoppers and in what positions have you held, if any?

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

2. What interests you in serving the Crime Stoppers community as an ambassador?

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

3. What are your thoughts/concerns about crime on school campuses?

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
4. What are your strengths and how will they benefit the Ambassador program?

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

5. How do you plan to grow the Campus Crime Stoppers programs in your community?

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

6. Give an example of how you have resolved a conflict in your life between two things that had to be done?

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________
7. Is there anything you would like us to know about you that you have not already stated?
AMBASSADOR SERVICE AGREEMENT

The purpose of this service agreement is to effectively carry out the Texas Crime Stoppers Ambassador initiative as an integral part of Texas Crime Stoppers. Ambassadors serve under the direction and guidance of Texas Crime Stoppers Staff.

(Please initial each of the following statements)

_____ All information that I have provided is true and correct and may be verified, if necessary, by contacting persons or organizations named in this application, or by contacting any person or organization that may have information concerning me.

_____ I understand that I am applying to a volunteer program and although I may benefit both personally and professionally from this experience, I will not receive nor expect any compensation for my volunteer service as an ambassador. I am willing to perform the volunteer service without promise, expectations, or receipt of wages and without any coercion or pressure.

_____ I will keep all academic responsibilities a top priority.

_____ I will maintain contact with the Texas Crime Stoppers Ambassador Leader and Liaison.

_____ I will notify the Ambassador Program Leader of any change of address, phone number, email or other contact information, including changes in sponsor.

_____ Texas Crime Stoppers may use photographs or film that may be taken of me.

_____ I will report on time, as scheduled and check-in with the staff.

_____ I will keep open communication with my Student Ambassador Sponsor regarding activities in the Ambassador program.

_____ I will keep open communication with my parent/guardian regarding activities in the Ambassador program.

_____ I am able to communicate effectively and efficiently.

_____ I am passionate about promoting the Crime Stoppers message.

_____ I am open-minded and respectful of others.

_____ I am a person that likes to have fun and meet new people.

_____ I am willing to take reasonable risks and learn new things.

_____ I am and will remain tobacco, alcohol, and drug-free.

By initialing the above statements and signing this application, I have read and understand the Code of Conduct and Service Agreement. I am aware of the consequences for violations to these policies.

Signature of Ambassador: ___________________________ Date: ___________________________

Signature of Sponsor: ___________________________ Date: ___________________________

Signature of Parent: ___________________________ Date: ___________________________
SPONSOR SERVICE AGREEMENT:

Sponsor Name: ____________________________________________________________

(Last)     (First)

Sponsor Title: __________________________________________________________________________________

School Name: __________________________________________________________________________________

Crime Stoppers Organization Name: ________________________________________________

School Address: __________________________________________________________________________________

(Street Address or P.O. Box)

Sponsor E-mail Address: _____________________________________________________________

Cell Phone: ______________________ Office Phone: ________________________________

I have read and fully understand the information given in this application and know the expectations of my student. I hereby request and approve this application and participation in the Texas Crime Stoppers Ambassador Program. When volunteering through the Ambassador Program, I understand that I am responsible for my student’s participation, travel arrangements and travel expenses throughout the program. Travel expenses may be reimbursed through the Texas Crime Stoppers training grant. Reimbursements must be submitted within 14 days of the last day of training.

(Please initial each of the following statements)

____ I will maintain contact with Texas Crime Stoppers Ambassador Program Leader.

____ I will notify Texas Crime Stoppers of any change of address, phone number, email or other contact information, including changes in sponsor.

____ I agree to be responsible for my student’s attendance, travel arrangements and travel expenses to all Ambassador Activities.

____ I agree to release and hold harmless from liability Texas Crime Stoppers, its employees, and volunteers.

SIGNATURE OF SPONSOR: ____________________________________________________________

DATE: ________________________________
TWO-MINUTE ELEVATOR PITCH INTERVIEWS

What is an elevator pitch?
Your elevator pitch is your quick, personal selling statement.

How it will work:
Each applicant will be given 120 seconds to share information about themselves with the “hiring team”. We encourage applicants to use the two minutes to explain why they would be a good Ambassador based on their experience and goals.

What to include in your two-minute pitch:
1. Introduction; Name, Year, and what program you’re with, etc.
2. Ambassador program interest.
3. Demonstrate your skills by sharing leadership experience, achievements, strengths, and skills/goals you want to achieve or fortify through Ambassadorship.

Example Elevator Pitch:

1. Hello, my name is ____________ and I am a ____________ at ____________ (high/middle) school and I’m with the ____________ campus crime stoppers program.

2. I am interested in a position as an Ambassador because____________, ____________, and ____________.

3. I have been involved in ____________ which I believe makes me an excellent candidate for the Ambassador program.

4. And developed skills in ____________. I have also had a work/volunteer position as a ____________ with ____________ and discovered that I really enjoy ____________.