

2017-2018 Academic Year

Service Ambassador

Program Overview and Application



**Office of Service-Learning and
Civic Engagement**

2017-2018 Service Ambassador Program Application

Service Ambassador Program

The mission of the Service Ambassador Program is “to empower student leaders to create on and off campus community engagement and service activities/events that will engage peers in meaningful experiences.”

The Service Ambassador (SA) Program has been designed to assist students and student organizations with the creation of and participation in co-curricular service activities. The service activities will happen outside of the classroom and therefore will not be attached to any specific curriculum or learning objectives. Instead, these activities will be designed to educate students on general social issues in Southwest Florida, engage them in active, participatory events with others, and provide them the tools they need to continue service independently. All Service Ambassador Events will be planned by student leaders (SAs) and fall under one of the following categories or “Impact Areas”:

- Disability Services
- Hunger and Homelessness Services
- Youth Empowerment Services

Minimum Qualifications for Selection

- Applicant must be a Florida Gulf Coast University student enrolled full-time in an undergraduate (**sophomore standing or above**).
- Applicant must be able to commit to the program for a minimum of one full academic year (fall and spring semesters).
- A 3.0 accumulative grade point average (GPA) is required, and must be maintained for continued employment.
- Applicant must be in good standing with the University (i.e., not currently on disciplinary or academic probation).
- Applicant must agree to a fingerprint screening and background check upon placement in the program.
- Applicant must possess strong written and verbal communication skills, the ability to work independently and collaboratively, and the ability to be patient, flexible, and have a great sense of humor.
- Upon selection, all students in the program are expected to attend **mandatory** ambassador trainings, orientations, and meetings.
- Upon selection, **all** students in the program are expected to plan and **execute two (2)** community engagement, service-learning, and/or outreach events per semester (either on or off campus). Certain Impact Areas have existing events/programs that you will be responsible for planning and implementing (see *Impact Area Overviews* for more information).
- Upon selection, students in the program must serve as a positive representative of the university, the Office of Undergraduate Studies, the Office of Service-Learning & Civic Engagement, and themselves.

Time Commitment

(Approx. 16 weeks fall semester (Aug-Dec) / Approx. 16 weeks spring semester (Jan-May))

Service Ambassadors will be expected to work on average six (6) hours per week but not to exceed ten (10) hours per week, when planning service events or representing the Office of Service-Learning. Hours will be logged by the student on a form provided by the program Coordinator and will be approved by either the program Coordinator or Office Manager.

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Compensation

Students selected to participate in the program may be compensated by one of the following:

- Federal Work Study funds (if work-study eligible)
- An hourly wage of \$10 an hour (average of 6 hours per week, but not to exceed 10 hours per week)

Application Process and Timeline

- Read the program description, responsibilities, expectations, and impact area profiles.
- Submit application to the Office of Service-Learning & Civic Engagement in person or electronically by emailing to LPAIGE@FGCU.EDU (use “**Service Ambassador Application**” as your email subject).
- Applications due by **5:00 pm, MAY 22, 2017**
- Include with your application:
 - Resume and one (1) letter of recommendation from FGCU faculty/staff you have worked with or a supervisor from past employment or community service experiences.
 - An indication of best times to interview (via Skype, phone, or face2face) between **10 am and 4 pm, starting May 24, 2017 – June 2, 2017.**
- Final decisions made and notifications sent by **JUNE 5, 2017.**
- First **mandatory** orientation: **DATE AND TIME TBD.**

Impact Area Overviews

- *Disability Services*

Federal laws define a person with a disability as "Any person who has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities; has a record of such impairment; or is regarded as having such an impairment." In general, a physical or mental impairment includes hearing, mobility and visual impairments, chronic alcoholism, chronic mental illness, AIDS, AIDS Related Complex, and mental retardation that substantially limits one or more major life activities. Major life activities include walking, talking and hearing, seeing, breathing, learning, performing manual tasks, and caring for oneself

(http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/program_offices/fair_housing_equal_opp/disabilities/inhousing).

SAs working in the area of Disability Services will be responsible for planning the annual FGCU Winter Games and Spring Fling in partnership with the Foundation for the Developmentally Disabled and the Lee and Collier County School Systems.

- *Hunger and Homelessness Services*

Hunger and Homelessness are two issues that impact millions of Americans, including those close to home. While both Hunger and Homelessness may be the result of various circumstances, the effects they have on those in our community can be devastating. Very simply, hunger is defined as the uneasy or painful sensation caused by lack of food. When we talk about hunger in America, we refer to the ability of people to obtain sufficient food for their household. Some people may find themselves skipping meals or cutting back on the quality or quantity of food they purchase at the stores. This recurring and involuntary lack of access to food can lead to malnutrition over time

(www.harrychapinfoodbank.org/index.php/ionformation/faq). Many families also suffer from Food Insecurity. “Food insecurity” refers to the lack of access to enough food to fully meet the basic needs at all times because of a lack of financial resources.

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A person or family who is homeless *does not have a home* as defined by the *McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act* as reauthorized in January, 2002. A per of family who is *at risk for becoming homeless is experience life circumstances that may lead to losing access to their current home*, such as losing employment income or their landlord foreclosing on their rental home or apartment.

SAs working within this area may partner with agencies such as the Harry Chapin Food Bank, The Salvation Army, Community Cooperatives, and Habitat for Humanity. In addition to planning events with these agencies, **SAs in this area will be responsible for planning events that will take place annually during National Hunger and Homelessness Week in November.**

- *Youth Empowerment Services*

With more children and youth coming from single-parent homes or families living at or below the poverty line, we are seeing more “at-risk” youth in Lee and Collier Counties. “At-risk” means that these children and youth may be more likely to develop behavioral issues, engage in destructive behavior, and are at a greater risk for teen substance abuse and teen pregnancy. Many of these children also come from backgrounds with little to no parental supervision or homes in when they have been neglected or abused. At-risk youth are also more likely to have trouble in school or with the law.

Working with Youth Development Service programs, we will be able to give these children and youth the tools they need in order to develop characteristics such as self-esteem, confidence, and the belief that they can contribute to their communities and nation in meaningful ways. Positive youth development is an intentional, pro-social approach that engages youth within their communities, schools, organizations, peer groups, and families in a manner that is productive and constructive; recognizes, utilizes, and enhances youths’ strengths; and promotes positive outcomes for young people by providing opportunities, fostering positive relationships, and furnishing the support needed to build on their leadership strengths (<http://findyouthinfo.gov/youth-topics/positive-youth-development>).

SAs working in the area of Youth Development and Services will be responsible for the planning of the bi-annual Eagles Inspire event that takes place during the fall and spring Eagle EXPO events. In addition to planning Eagles Inspire, SAs in this area may also partner with agencies such as Quality Life Center, Boys and Girls Club, The Bridge Youth Center, and The Heights Foundation.

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Applicant Information			
Last Name	First Name	M.I.	UIN
Street Address		Apt/Unit #	
City	State	Zip	
Phone ()	Email Address		
Current GPA	Estimated date of Graduation		

Please indicate what your student classification will be for the 2017-2018 Academic Year:

- Sophomore
 Junior
 Senior

Do you plan to apply for any other student leadership roles on campus for the 2017-2018 Academic Year? This includes, but is not limited to: Honors Mentor Program, LLC Mentor Program, Student Government, FGCU Ambassador Program, Eagle International Program, and leadership roles in PanHellenic, IFC, and other student organizations.

- Yes
 No

If you answered “yes” to the questions above, please indicate which program(s) and leadership roles you are applying for:

Do you qualify for Federal Work Study? Yes No

Please indicate your order of preference for the three Impact Areas:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

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Please describe your experience with service-learning and community engagement:

Please provide a brief description of your past involvement in the campus community, including any student organizations you have been part of:

Tell us about a time you had to make a decision that was not well liked by others. Why did you make this decision? How did you deal with having others upset by your decision?

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Tell us about a situation where you had to deal with a great amount of pressure/stress. How did you work to overcome this?

Tell us about a situation where you had to solve a problem in the “heat of the moment.” What did you learn from this situation? What did this teach you about how you will solve problems in the future?

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What leadership qualities do you feel you possess? How would these be beneficial to the Service Ambassador Program? Please explain.

List two or three big ideas you can bring to the table in this position as you look toward the future of service-learning and community engagement at Florida Gulf Coast University.

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Tell us why you would be perfect for this position... in 140 characters or less (the length of a tweet).

I have read, and understand the Service-Learning Ambassador Program description and requirements, and I hereby certify that all statements made on this application are true and correct to the best of my knowledge. I understand that any false statements provided in this application will automatically disqualify me as a candidate for the Service-Learning Ambassador Program. Since the Service-Learning Ambassador Program carries with it certain privileges and responsibilities, I hereby give permission to the Office of Service-Learning & Civic Engagement to access my academic and judicial records with Florida Gulf Coast University. Since this is a paid position through Florida Gulf Coast University, I also hereby give permission to the University to conduct a fingerprint screening and background check upon placement in this program.

Signature

Date

Please submit completed applications to the Office of Service-Learning & Civic Engagement (Library Room 458G) by **5:00 pm, MAY 22, 2017**.

Application and letter of recommendation may also be emailed to LPAIGE@FGCU.EDU by **5:00 pm, MAY 22, 2017**. Please use “**Service Ambassador Application**” as your email subject.

If you have any questions regarding the Service Ambassador Program or application process, please contact servicelearning@fgcu.edu