

2019-2020 Academic Year

# Service Ambassador

Program Overview and Application



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

# 2019-2020 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 assists 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. Instead, these activities will 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 doing service independently. All Service Ambassador Events planned by Service Ambassadors will 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 program (**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 and flexible.
- Upon selection, **all** students in the program must attend **all mandatory** ambassador trainings, orientations, and meetings.
- Upon selection, all students in the program are expected to **plan and execute** community engagement, service-learning, and/or outreach events (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 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 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 at sponsored programs and events.

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**Compensation** – Selected students paid with either:

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

## 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](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, facilitating, and attending the annual FGCU Winter Games and Spring Fling in partnership with agencies such as STARability Foundation, Lee & Collier County School Districts, as well as others.

### **Hunger and Homelessness Services**

Hunger and Homelessness are two issues that have impacts on millions of Americans. While both Hunger and Homelessness may be the result of various circumstances, the effects they have on those in our community can be devastating. When we talk about hunger in America, we refer to the inability 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](http://www.harrychapinfoodbank.org/index.php/ionformation/faq)). Many families also suffer from Food Insecurity, which 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.

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 person or family who is *at risk for becoming homeless* is *experiencing life circumstances that may lead to losing access to their current home*.

SAs working in the area of Hunger and Homelessness Services may collaborate with agencies such as Food Banks, The Salvation Army, Community Cooperative, or Habitat for Humanity. SAs in this area will also be responsible for planning events that will take place annually during National Hunger and Homelessness Week in November.

### **Youth Empowerment Services**

With many children and youth coming from 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. At-risk youth are also more likely to have trouble in school or with the law.

SAs working in the area of Youth Empowerment Services will be responsible for planning the Eagles Inspire event that takes place during fall and spring Eagle EXPO. In addition, SAs in this area may also collaborate with agencies such as Quality Life Center or Boys and Girls Club.

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## Application Process and Timeline

1. Read the program description, responsibilities, expectations, and impact area profiles above.
2. Submit the application and required documents to the Office of Service-Learning & Civic Engagement in person (Library Rm 449) or electronically by emailing to [LPAIGE@FGCU.EDU](mailto:LPAIGE@FGCU.EDU) (please use your Eagle email and put “**Service Ambassador Application**” in the subject line).
3. Completed documentation is due by **5:00 pm, FRIDAY, AUGUST 2, 2019.**
4. Include:
  - Application
  - Resume
  - List of three (3) work or academic references (names, email addresses, phone numbers)
  - Responses to questions below
  - An indication of best times to interview (via Skype or in-person) between **10 am and 4 pm**, starting **August 12, 2019 – August 16, 2019.**
5. Final decisions and notifications sent by **August 19, 2019.**
6. **First mandatory orientation: DATE AND TIME TBD.**

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Applicant Information			
Last Name	First Name	M.I.	UIN
Street Address		Apt/Unit #	
City	State	Zip	
Cell Phone	@ Eagle Email Address		
Current GPA	Estimated date of Graduation		
College	Major		

Please indicate what your student classification will be for the 2019-2020 Academic Year:

- Sophomore     
  Junior     
  Senior

Do you currently hold or plan to apply for any other student leadership roles on campus for the 2019-2020 Academic Year?     
  Yes     
  No

If you answered “yes” to the question above, please indicate which role(s) you currently hold and/or for which leadership role(s) you are applying:

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Do you qualify for Federal Work Study?     
  Yes     
  No

Please indicate your order of preference for the **THREE** Impact Areas - Youth Development, Disability Services, and Hunger & Homelessness Services:

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

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On separate paper, please provide your responses:

1. Describe your previous service-learning experience(s).
2. What leadership qualities do you feel you possess? How would these be beneficial to the Service Ambassador Program? Please explain.
3. List one or two big ideas you think you could bring to this position.
4. Tell us why you would be perfect for this position... in 140 characters or less (the length of a tweet).

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**I have read and understand the Service-Learning Ambassador Program description and requirements and 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 from 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 (electronic signatures are acceptable)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Submit completed application, resume, references, and responses to the Office of Service-Learning & Civic Engagement either by hand (Library 449) or by email to [LPAIGE@FGCU.EDU](mailto:LPAIGE@FGCU.EDU). If submitting by email, please use **your eagle email and put “Service Ambassador Application”** in the subject line:

**5:00 pm, FRIDAY AUGUST 2, 2019**

\*\* Please also include the best times to interview (via Skype or in-person) between **10 am and 4 pm**, starting **August 12, 2019 – August 16, 2019**\*\*

**If you have any questions regarding the Service Ambassador Program or application process, please contact Lisa Paige at [lp Paige@fgcu.edu](mailto:lp Paige@fgcu.edu).**