



Say What! Teen Ambassador Application

Instructions: Please type or print clearly! Applications must be fully completed to be considered for selection. To apply to become a Say What! Teen Ambassador, the applicant must be at least 15 years of age or between freshman and junior year in High School during the 2021-2022 school year. If you currently are or have been a Teen Ambassador and will be a senior for the school year 2021-2022, you are also eligible to apply.
Application Deadline: 5:00pm CT, Wednesday, August 11, 2021

Section I:

Name _____ Age _____ Birth Date _____ Gender _____

Address _____

City _____ State **TEXAS** Zip _____

Cell Phone _____ E-mail Address _____

Youth Group _____ T-Shirt Size _____

Sponsor Name _____

School Attending _____ Grade (2021-2022) _____

Are you registered on TxSayWhat.com? Yes ___ No ___

What social media networks do you use? (Please fill in with handle/url)

Facebook.com/ _____ Twitter.com/ _____

Instagram.com/ _____ TikTok.com/ _____

YouTube.com/ _____ Snapchat: _____

Section II: (Use extra paper if necessary)

Why do you care about tobacco prevention? _____

What have you accomplished regarding tobacco prevention in your school or community?

What does being an advocate mean to you? _____

If you are selected to become a Say What! Teen Ambassador, what specific areas of tobacco prevention do you hope to address in your school or community, and what do you want to change at the local or state level? _____

List your other activities (i.e. clubs, church, sports, outside jobs, hobbies, etc.). _____

Section III:

All applicants are required to record a video of themselves answering the following questions:

- 1) Tell us about yourself. **[30-60 seconds]**
- 2) Why are you applying to be a Teen Ambassador? **[30-60 seconds]**
- 3) Tell us about one of your favorite experiences involving tobacco prevention. **[at least 30 seconds]**
- 4) Other than tobacco prevention, tell us about something else you're passionate about. **[30-60 seconds]**
- 5) Why are you the best candidate to be the voice for youth tobacco prevention in Texas? **[30-60 seconds]**

Please make sure that your video follows these guidelines:

- o Shot in **landscape** mode
- o Clear audio and video
- o Upload video to **YouTube** - make sure the privacy setting is **"Unlisted"** *not Private*

Once you've uploaded your application video to YouTube, please email the link along with your first and last name to TxSayWhat@txstate.edu by 5:00pm CT on Wednesday, August 11, 2021.

Section IV:

All applicants are required to attach two reference letters to their application. Letters must be submitted by an adult who is familiar with your skills and abilities related to working with youth, can verify your participation in youth-related activities, and can describe an experience they have had with you that demonstrates your skills and abilities. **Letters from parent(s)/guardian(s) are not allowed.** Please include contact information for references on each letter.

Say What! Teen Ambassador must exhibit a high degree of maturity, responsibility, flexibility, and leadership ability. By signing the bottom of this application and submitting it for consideration, you are agreeing to the following:

I understand that:

- a.** The information I have provided 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 hereby release and agree to hold harmless from liability any person or organization that provides information. I also agree to hold harmless the Texas School Safety Center, its employees and volunteers, thereof.
- b.** By signing this application, I have read the attached information and am applying to become a Say What! Teen Ambassador with the Texas School Safety Center and the Texas Department of State Health Services' tobacco prevention initiative.
- c.** If selected to become a Say What! Teen Ambassador, I will meet all expectations listed in the Service Agreement, as well as any expectations that may be asked of me by Texas School Safety Center staff.
- d.** The Texas School Safety Center may use photographs, video or audio that may be taken of me.
- e.** I affirm that the information that I have given on this form is true and correct.

Printed Name _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Parent/Guardian Name _____

Parent Signature _____ Date _____

Application Checklist

Please make sure you have completed all of the following to ensure we have all of your materials:

- Print out application and type or print clearly all of your responses
- Record video and upload to YouTube (post video as “**UNLISTED**”)
- Email YouTube link along with your first and last name to TxSayWhat@txstate.edu by 5:00pm Central Time on **Wednesday, August 11, 2021**
- Get two (2) letters of recommendation

Scan and email your application, recommendation letters, and signed Personal Integrity Statement and Service Agreement to TxSayWhat@txstate.edu by 5:00pm Central Time on Wednesday, August 11, 2021.

******It is ultimately the responsibility of the applicant to make sure that staff receives all of the required paperwork by the deadline. We recommend following up either by email or phone call to confirm receipt – TxSayWhat@txstate.edu or 512.245.6231.******

Say What! Teen Ambassador Personal Integrity Statement

Personal Conduct: *I understand that to be an effective youth advocate for tobacco prevention and control and for Say What!, I am expected to:*

- Resolve conflicts in a professional manner. (If the conflict is beyond what I can reasonably manage, I will notify staff.)
- Contact staff if I am in a situation where I am uncomfortable or am not able to answer a question or address a concern.
- Be aware of my actions and how I am perceived by others.
- Follow all rules and guidelines that are given to me by staff.

Social Media: *I understand that social media is an integral part of being an effective advocate for tobacco prevention and control. I will:*

- Utilize technology and social media at the appropriate times.
- Be aware of the words and images I am posting and how they reflect me as a person.
- Ask myself, "Will this jeopardize the integrity of the program?" before I post anything on social media. (If I am unsure, I will ask staff before I post.)
- Follow the guidance of staff if I am asked to delete or take down any social media post.

Attitudes: *I understand that my attitude affects others. I am expected to:*

- Put personal problems or situations aside while serving as a role of Teen Ambassador. (If these personal problems or situations interfere with my role, I will notify staff.)
- Be respectful of others' attitudes, beliefs, and personal choices.
- Maintain a humble attitude.
- Receive and apply constructive criticism.
- Be willing to work and communicate effectively while serving as a Teen Ambassador.

Disclosure of Personal Information: *I understand that as a youth advocate, I will be surrounded by youth and adults who share similar passions with me. I am expected to:*

- Know the difference between what I *can* say and what I *should* say.
- Share my personal passion, if it is something I am comfortable with.
- Not disclose personal information with participants, unless it is directly related to my reason for being involved in tobacco prevention and control. (If I am unsure about what I should disclose, I will ask staff.)
- Maintain a professional, helping relationship with all participants while serving my role as a Teen Ambassador.

I understand that if I fail to comply with these integrity statements presented to me, I may be dismissed from the program. The integrity of Say What!, the TA Program, and the Texas School Safety Center is represented through me as a youth advocate, and I will hold myself to complying with these standards.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Say What! Teen Ambassador

SERVICE AGREEMENT

Service Term: 9-1-21 through 8-31-22

The purpose of this Service Agreement is to ensure that all youth applicants fully understand the commitment necessary to fulfill the role and responsibilities as a Say What! Teen Ambassador. The Teen Ambassador (TA) Program is an integral part of the State of Texas' tobacco prevention initiative, with funding made available from the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS). Under the direction and guidance of Texas School Safety Center (TxSSC) at Texas State University, Say What! TAs embody the qualities of leadership, civic involvement and public service necessary to lead their peers and other adults in the continuing effort to protect people from the harmful effects of tobacco.

The main objective of the TA Program is to provide direction and leadership for Say What! events, trainings, and resources. In addition, TAs serve as peer leaders to other youth across Texas and strive to model effective youth-adult partnership strategies. Serving as a primary youth voice for tobacco prevention in Texas, TAs represent their peers throughout the state and also utilize opportunities to advocate for tobacco prevention both locally and nationally.

Please review the following **mandatory** service requirements for a Say What! Teen Ambassador:

- Read and agreed to the Say What! Teen Ambassador Personal Integrity Statement.
- Attend the mandatory Fall Orientation Training October 8 – 11, 2021.
- Attend the mandatory Summer In-Service Training June 6 – 9, 2022.
- Staff at least one (1) of the Say What! Action Summits.
- Lead a project for Texas Tobacco-Free Kids Day the 3rd Wednesday in March.
- Staff the mandatory Say What! Texas Tobacco-Free Conference in July 2022.
- Lead at least one tobacco prevention project for your school or community by August 31, 2022.
- Deliver at least two presentations to youth and adults by August 31, 2022.
- Report all projects conducted as a TA on TxSayWhat.com by the 10th day of the following month.
- Stay current on tobacco prevention and advocacy through articles, videos, and trainings as assigned.
- Communicate regularly and in a timely manner with TxSSC staff, Consultants, and fellow TAs.
- Share/re-post Say What! generated social media content weekly.
- Have reliable, consistent internet access as well as reliable, consistent access to a computer.
- Participate in monthly phone meetings.
- Actively recruit groups to attend Say What! events and register on TxSayWhat.com.

Each TA will be reviewed regularly during the term of service in regards to meeting performance measures. In addition, TxSSC staff may request a copy of a TAs report card to ensure academic responsibilities are being maintained. Any TA who fulfills the Service Agreement and completes a re-application when appropriate will be considered for term renewal. **TxSSC has the right to remove any TA from active status based on inactivity or any conduct in contradiction to this agreement.**

By signing this Service Agreement, said applicant agrees to abide by the terms set forth in this agreement and to make every effort to actively serve the full term of the Service Agreement should he/she be selected.

I have read and understood the Say What! Teen Ambassador Service Agreement & Personal Integrity Statement.

Should I be selected to become a 2021-2022 Say What! Teen Ambassador, I agree to fulfill my commitment by meeting all of the agreed upon standards of conduct and service. I acknowledge that this opportunity is a privilege, and should I fail to meet the expectations listed above, I understand that I may be dismissed from the Teen Ambassador program.

Furthermore, I am committed to helping make the vision of a tobacco-free Texas a reality.

Printed Applicant Name: _____

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Printed Parent Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____