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Southeast Alaska Youth Ambassador Application

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Application must be mailed or emailed by October 20, 2011

Mailing Address:

SEARHC
Attn: Megan Gregory
3245 Hospital Drive
Juneau, AK 99801

Email Address:

SEAKYA@gmail.com

Application cannot be reviewed unless all sections are complete.



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Youth Ambassador Program

Thank you for choosing to participate in the Youth Ambassador program. We hope that you will enjoy your experience, and that you will use this opportunity to communicate more effectively with your school board and be a strong advocate for your fellow schoolmates.

The Youth Ambassadors program is a unique program sponsored by the SEARHC "1 is 2 Many" Task Force. One high school junior or senior from each town residing in Southeast Alaska will have the opportunity to become a leader for their school. Many people have worked hard to create this unique experience for you.

It is with this determination that the 1 is 2 Many Task Force wants to collaborate with all Southeast Alaska partners especially the Youth to endeavor in a community-based approach for suicide prevention. We must engage, we must listen to each other and we must support each other. We need to talk openly about suicide. It should not be a taboo topic. We need to teach the youth that suicide is not ok, and we need to make sure each and every individual knows that there are options and suicide is not one of them.

This handbook will clarify student policies and procedures pertaining to expectations of behavior, professional conduct, discipline and confidentiality. Frequently asked questions will also be addressed. In addition, it will also contain forms such as photo releases, waiver forms and a standard of conduct form.

We hope this handbook will be useful to you in defining your participation and commitment in attending the 1 is 2 Many meetings. Please review it and use it as a tool to enhance your experience. Any input and suggestions to improve this program are welcomed and always appreciated.
Gunalcheesh! Haw'aa! T'ooyxsn! Thank you!

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Youth Ambassadors Program?

The Youth Ambassadors Program is the 1 is 2 Many initiative to offer opportunity and exposure to high school students throughout Southeast Alaska. It is important for us to connect with our Youth, and let them know that we are here to support them. We are interested not only in the prevention of suicide, but also in encouraging our Youth to take action now to help make a difference. We accomplish this by providing an opportunity for students to attend meetings, work with a mentor, and become a strong positive advocate in their communities.

Where will these meetings take place? Where will I stay?

Most meetings will be held in Juneau. Occasionally meetings are held in different communities throughout southeast, or via teleconference. Students will be housed with their mentors. Each student will have the opportunity to choose one member from the Task Force as their mentor.

How often are Southeast Alaska Suicide Prevention Task Force meetings held?

You can expect to participate in a Southeast Alaska Suicide Prevention Task Force meeting once a month.

What is the cost to attend this program?

With the generous help of funders such as your Tribe/Organization, 1 is 2 Many is able to offer this program at no cost to eligible students.

Why am I expected to attend school board/city council meetings?

It is our hope to communicate more effectively with each school throughout southeast. As the Youth Ambassador you will have the opportunity to be the voice for your school and community. This will give you the opportunity to discuss the problems your school/community is facing, and work on ways to make it a more positive environment.

What are ASSIST, Gatekeepers, and safeTALK? Why am I required to attend these trainings?

Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASSIST) is a two day workshop for those who want to feel more comfortable, confident and competent in helping to prevent the immediate risk of suicide. Gatekeeper training involves educating natural helpers, or adults who interact with youth as part of their regular day, to recognize warning signs for suicide and know how to respond appropriately to suicidal youth. A gatekeeper should ultimately be able to provide a link, or open the gate, between a young person and a mental health professional. SafeTALK, about three hours in duration, is a training that prepares anyone over the age of 15 to identify persons with thoughts of suicide and connect them to suicide first aid resources. Most people with thoughts of suicide invite help to stay safe. Alert helpers know how to use these opportunities to support that desire for safety. As a safeTALK-trained suicide alert helper, you will be better able to:

- Move beyond common tendencies to miss, dismiss or avoid suicide;
- Identify people who have thoughts of suicide;
- Apply the *TALK* steps (*Tell, Ask, Listen* and *KeepSafe*) to connect a person with suicide thoughts to suicide first aid, intervention caregivers.

Each student will be required to attend these trainings to better prepare them for some of the issues we will be addressing at each meeting. If any of these trainings take place in your community we would like to see each student work with the facilitators to help make each training a success!

What are the goals of the Youth Ambassador Program?

- Define participant's goals for the Native community.
- Address and uncover issues affecting our Native community and discuss ways to address them.
- Further participant's professional development.
- Enhance participant's skills while developing new ones.
- Continue to expand an established network of Native leaders.

Student Policies and Procedures

Professional Conduct

Mature, professional conduct is expected of the Youth Ambassador Program students at all times. The Youth Ambassador Program is for native and non-native **high school juniors and seniors only**. The Task Force has provided a valuable opportunity to each of you and placed a great trust in your hands. Students must adhere to all program rules and policies. You must follow the assigned schedule that you receive from the program coordinator. Your attitude and attention must be focused on the tasks and assignments presented to you at all times.

Cell phones, iPods, mp3 players, handheld computers or any other electronic device will not be allowed during program events. They can be kept with your personal belongings to be used during personal time. Disregard for this policy will follow disciplinary action as outlined in the disciplinary action section. You have been selected for the program because of your maturity, potential and attitude. Disregard for policies and guidelines of the program will not be tolerated and failure to follow the rules will result in a reprimand and possible dismissal from the program. Students and parents are required to sign a standard of conduct form which indicates that you understand and agree to abide by all of the program and facility guidelines, policies and procedures.

Disciplinary Action

Should a student require disciplinary attention, the following procedures will be followed:

First offense:

The student will receive verbal and written warnings from the program coordinator and/or mentor. The student's parents or guardian will be notified of the problem.

Second offense:

Any student requiring additional disciplinary action or attention will be immediately dismissed from the program and sent home.

Attendance

Students are required to report on time for every meeting, event or assignment. If a student is unable to report at the designated time, he or she must notify their mentor prior to the scheduled event. Any unexcused student absence will require a discussion with the program coordinator upon their return and will be subject to the disciplinary action previously outlined.

Assigned Work/Activities

Students will be required to put their best effort forward in participating and completing activities as assigned. Individual presenters may require students to respond to quick assignments to demonstrate what knowledge they have gained from the presentation.

Southeast Alaska Suicide Prevention Youth Ambassador Program Student Pledge

I believe that the Southeast Alaska Suicide Prevention Task force has a genuine need of my services as a Youth Ambassador.

I will be punctual and conscientious in the fulfillment of my duties and will accept supervision graciously.

I will conduct myself with dignity, courtesy and consideration.

I will endeavor to make my work of the highest quality.

I will uphold the Southeast Traditional Tribal Values and will interpret them appropriately to the community at large.

*I will say no to drugs, say yes to life, and speak out publicly whenever possible to encourage young people to,
"SAY NO TO DRUGS!"*

I will be respectful to everyone I encounter, including fellow students, mentors, presenters, and elders.

Social Networking Websites

Although social networking websites, like Facebook, and Twitter MySpace, are growing and gaining in popularity, posting something online today, may cause you some problems in the future.

Although they provide obvious benefits, there are also concerns associated with such sites that students need to understand. Studies suggest the majority of students say or do things online they would not want their parents or other adults to see, especially when it comes to social networking sites.

Provocative photographs, pictures that depict substance abuse, and explicit photos and videos, are being published online in increasing numbers. Besides providing far too much personal information online for friends, this type of information may in fact place you at risk for predators or those who may have ulterior motives.

There are a number of emerging trends that suggest cause for future concern for students. Employers are increasingly turning to social networking sites (SNS) to evaluate candidates for jobs. The privacy waivers SNS users agree to in order to use Facebook, MySpace and others, offer little protection to the user. Uploaded photos and videos may be available to "non-friends" and third party applications could have full access to all uploaded photos and videos. A compromising image could cause an applicant to not be considered for a position.

Some statistics suggest a high percentage of employers now include social networking sites in their background checks, resulting in "qualified" employees not being considered for hire.

According to the Job Outlook 2007 Fall Preview survey conducted by the National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE), 11% of respondents reported they plan on reviewing social networking profiles when considering job candidates. More than 60% said the information they obtained online had some effect on their decisions when hiring.

"1 is 2 Many"

Although it may be fun to post that picture from a concert or party, the consequences of that photograph may be far reaching. According to a September 2008 [Kaplan Survey](#), social networks are so accessible that college admissions officials are turning to them and uncover positive or negative information about applicants in an instant:

- 10% of admissions officers acknowledged looking at social networking sites to evaluate applicants
- 38% said that what they saw "negatively affected" their views of the applicant
- 25% of schools checking social networks said their views were improved
- 21% of colleges used social networking sites for recruiting prospects and gathering information about applicants

Once something is published or posted online, don't assume it can be deleted. Although the original post may be removed, it is important to note that the image, video or posting may be stored elsewhere on someone else's computer or server, it may have been printed out, or it may have been forwarded through email to others.

Think twice before posting something online. What is posted online today may cause issues or problems for you in the future.

Southeast Alaska Suicide Prevention Youth Ambassador Program

<i>Student Profile</i>

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

<i>School Information</i>

Name of current school: _____ Current GPA: _____

School Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

<i>Student Involvement</i>

In this section you are encouraged to document any work, service, community, internship, or school involvement that you have been a part of. Please attach an additional sheet of paper if needed.

<i>Name of Organization</i>	<i>Description of Role/Leadership position</i>	<i>Dates Involved</i>

Mother/Guardian Information

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Work Phone: _____ Email: _____

Father/Guardian Information

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Work Phone: _____ Email: _____

Emergency Contact

If a parent/guardian cannot be reached then SASPTF should contact the following person:

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Work Phone: _____ Email: _____

Relation to Applicant: _____

Application Consent and Authorization Form

I verify that the information submitted through this application is true. I understand that this application is for the Youth Ambassador Program. The information gathered will be kept confidential and will not be released to others or used for other purposes. I understand that this application is for the Youth Ambassadors Program and that the applicant is expected to be in attendance for the entire program. I understand that the applicant will be subject to the rules of the program. In the event of an emergency, I authorize medical treatment as deemed necessary by competent health personnel.

Applicant Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Reference

Please provide the contact of one person that can serve as a reference to your scholarship, leadership, and/or character. A qualifying reference may include: teacher, school counselor, tribal leader, other community leader, etc. Reference contact cannot be a relative.

Last Name: _____

First Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Work Phone: _____

Cell Phone: _____

Email: _____

Title: _____

Photography/Media Release

I grant the SASPTF permission to use my picture or image in pictures and/or video in newsletters, and other purposes.

Printed Name of Applicant

Applicant Signature

Date

Standards of Conduct

The Southeast Alaska Suicide Prevention Task Force is extremely pleased that you have decided to participate in the Youth Ambassadors Program. As a participant in the Youth Ambassador Program, there are certain expectations that we have of you. First and foremost, as a participant, it will be your responsibility to respectfully represent your community and be on your best behavior. Please review the following expectations with your parent/guardian and indicate that you understand them by signing and dating this document.

The Expectations are:

- You will abide all policies and procedures as laid out in the student handbook.
- You will attend all Youth Ambassador Activities.
- You will **not** be released to the custody of anyone unless prior written consent is received, approved and does not interfere with the Youth Ambassador activities.
- You will be respectful to people and property.
- You will obey all laws.
- You will cooperate with instructional, and mentors at all times.
- You will keep your mentor informed of your physical whereabouts at all times.
- You will **not** use drugs, alcohol or tobacco at any time during this Youth Ambassador experience.
- You will have to attend Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASSIST), Gatekeeper Training, and SAFETALK Training before attending any meetings.
- You will attend school board/City Council meetings to discuss what the Southeast Alaska Suicide Prevention Task Force can do to help the Youth and report back to the Task Force.
- You will provide a copy of your progress reports, and **maintain a C average** in order to participate in the Youth Ambassadors Program throughout the school year.

By signing below, the student and parent completely understand that if any of the above conditions are violated, he/she will be sent home immediately at the expense of the parent(s) or guardian(s).

Student Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Youth Ambassador Program Student Personal Essay

You have indicated an interest in participating in the Youth Ambassadors Program. As part of your application, we would like you to compose a personal essay (no more than 750 words) introducing yourself. The personal essay will play a pivotal role in the selection process.

In your essay please include:

- *A narration of your achievements, talents, or experiences that have helped define who you are today.*
- *How you see yourself as a leader. Include at least one strength and one weakness in your abilities.*
- *A description of your local tribal community and how you plan to serve its needs, either locally or abroad.*
- *Your reasons on why being accepted to the Youth Ambassadors Program would help you reach your goals and become a powerful leader.*

Thank you for applying to the Youth Ambassador Program. We look forward to reviewing your application.

Dare to be different...

Together we can make a difference!

