

# GHS AMBASSADOR PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Grapevine High School is proud to sponsor the Ambassador Program. The purpose of this program is best described in the words of our principal, Dr. Hollingsworth: ***“One of the greatest lessons we can teach our young people is the importance of serving our community and giving generously to those in need. When such lessons are carried into adulthood, our students are likely to live much more productive, satisfying lives.”***

The GHS Ambassador Program is composed of two award distinctions: The **Community Scholar Ambassador** and the **Community Service Ambassador**, both alike in honor and merit. Each of these award designations is explained in the Program Guidelines.

Participation in the Ambassador Program is strictly **elective**—there is no mandated requirement for GHS students to perform community service as a part of their course of study over their 4 years of high school nor is community service completion a requisite for graduation purposes.

## What are the elements of the GHS Ambassador Program’s purpose and mission?

- The Ambassador Program exists to encourage the students at GHS to go above and beyond their normal school-day/student life experiences and give something back to their world by performing genuine, hands-on, volunteer service for the various not-for-profit charitable agencies in and around our community.
- The Ambassador Program seeks to set a standard for our students, one for which those who achieve one of the two Ambassador distinctions can be duly proud. As ours is an **awards** program and not simply a *participation* program, we have designed it to ensure that successful participation represents a true and recognizable achievement. Thus, it is our expectation that in choosing to become a member, our student participants will respect the rules and regulations of the Ambassador Program, the adult administrators of it, and not attempt to question it, qualify it by or compare it to other programs of which they may be a part.
- The Ambassador Program seeks to create a “big picture” awareness of the sweeping need for volunteerism here in our own community and the diversity of organizations that exist to help others less fortunate as well as those that cause their communities to be better places in which to live. Participants are encouraged to go outside of their “comfort zones” to seek out real need in their communities for which volunteerism is especially essential. What students already do in their everyday life in this regard is important, to be sure; but, a special Program is not required to encourage or award that which is commonplace, routine, expected and already being done in their normal lives.
- The Ambassador Program encourages the participation of all students at GHS by ensuring that the requisite number of community service hours to be earned is easily attainable and can be handled without undue hardship to the student’s daily schedule. This is precisely why the total number of hours each student must earn averages out at a very realistic and conservative 25 hours per 365-day calendar year.
- The Ambassador Program requires that the **student** member of the Program handle all aspects of it on his/her own. **Before a student commits to becoming a participant**, it is important that (s)he understand fully that this is **not** a Program for his/her parent to handle. Instilling commitment and accountability is inherent in the design of the Ambassador Program, and our most successful participants are those who embrace the Program mandates and complete them on their own. The Committee is here to guide, clarify and answer the questions of our student members. Students should always feel free to contact us for any reason.

## How do students make their start in the Ambassador Program?

For all students who **do** elect to participate in the Program, it is imperative that you start with Step 1: **Read the Ambassador Program Guidelines and all accompanying information, thoroughly.** All participation requirements and answers to most questions can be found here in the Program web pages.

Once you have read through all of the literature in regard to the GHS Ambassador Program, you are strongly encouraged to contact the Ambassador Program Committee with any aspect of the Program for which you need further clarification. Our email address is [GHSAmbassadors@aol.com](mailto:GHSAmbassadors@aol.com). Communication between the student member and the Ambassador Program Committee is primarily handled via email, so having computer access and a personal email address is a necessity. Students who do not have computer access should contact their Guidance Counselor who will assist them by providing alternative means for participating in the Program.

**WELCOME TO THE AMBASSADOR PROGRAM!** Now, onto your next reading assignment: *The Ambassador Program Guidelines!*