



# Student Ambassador Program

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# Student Ambassador Program

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- The goal of the Secretary of State's Student Ambassador Program is to provide high school students an opportunity to engage as leaders within their schools and communities.
- Objectives:
  - Have students engage in and learn about Georgia Civics.
  - Promote and increase voter registration among young voters.
  - Encourage students to volunteer and give back to their communities.



# Student Ambassador Program: Participants

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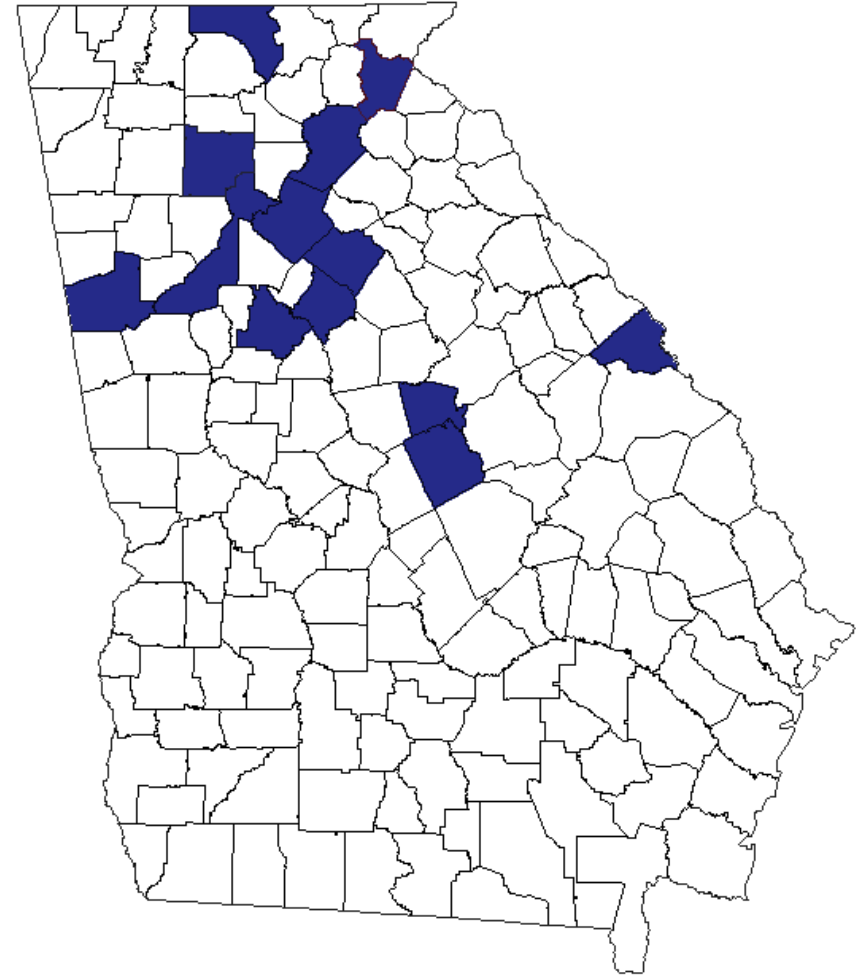
- Partners:
  - High Schools
  - Community Youth Leadership Groups such as Kiwanis and Chamber of Commerce
- Participants:
  - 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> graders
  - Representatives are chosen by the school or organization.
  - Each is allowed up to 9 student participants.
  - At least one student per grade level is required.



# Student Ambassador Program: Participants

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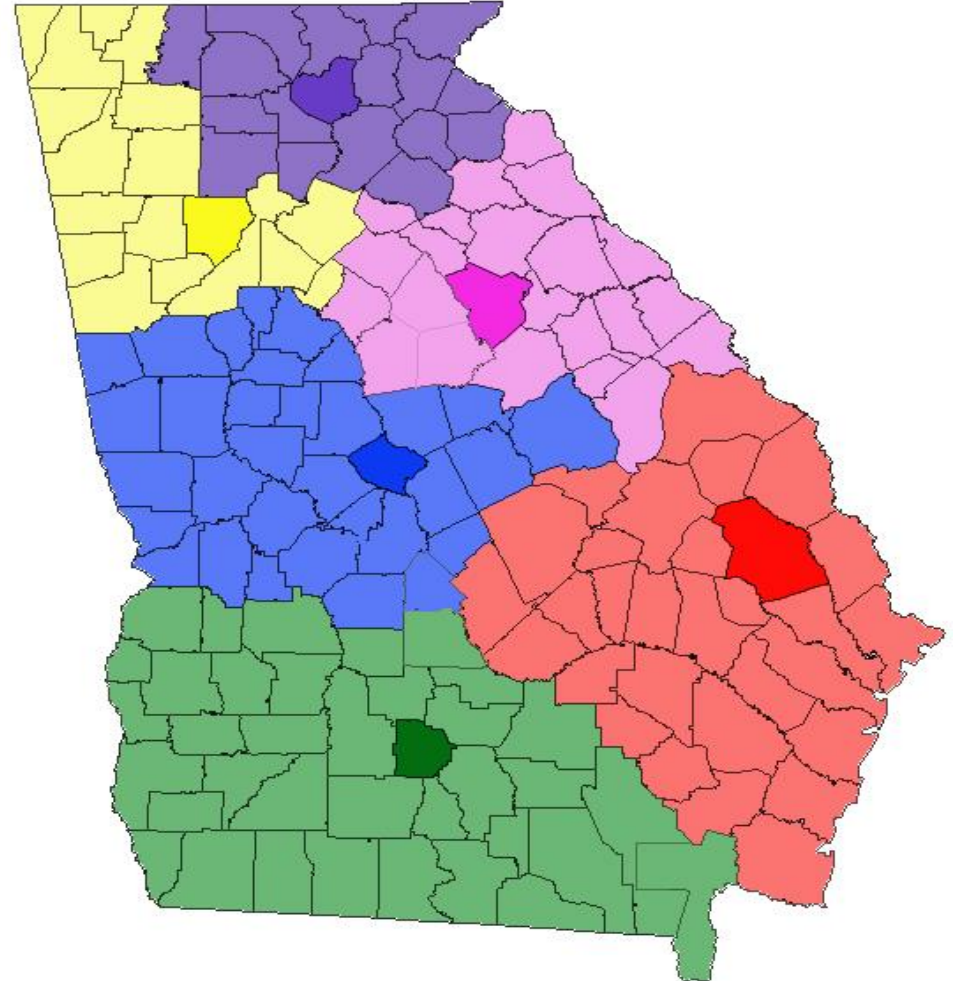
- **Pilot Program**
  - 14 schools
  - Over 160 Students
- **2016-2017 School Year**
  - Over 110 schools
  - 1,000+ Students
- **Goals for 2017-2018 School Year**
  - Partner with all 159 counties in Georgia
  - Have over 250 schools participating



# Student Ambassador Program: Kick-Off Events

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- All students will attend a Kick-Off event in the fall.
  - At these events they will receive all the training and resources that they need for success in the program.
- Training Topics
  - Overview of the Program and Students' Roles
  - Importance of Voting and Registration
  - Public Speaking and Event Planning
  - How to Register Someone to Vote
  - State Capitol Tour/Georgia Civics
- Resources:
  - Student Guide
  - T-shirts
  - Give-Aways
  - Facebook Page
  - GA SOS app



# Student Ambassador Program: Student Roles

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- Seniors:

- The leaders of their team.
- Responsibilities—
  - Planning meetings
  - Setting goals
  - Scheduling events

- Juniors:

- The drivers of their team.
- Responsibilities—
  - Help execute that vision
  - Learning about voting, the process of registering to vote, and will assist Seniors in meeting goals and planning events.

- Sophomores:

- The supporters of their team.
- Responsibilities—
  - Support the vision and goals of their team.



# Student Ambassador Program: Competition

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- For each event that the students plan and participate in they receive points towards the competition.
- Students submit their work via email or posting to the Student Ambassador Facebook page
- The Outreach Staff sends out a weekly update to the participants to see their standings.
- The team with the most points at the end of the year wins the competition.



# Student Ambassador Program: Events

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- **Voter Registration Pep Rallies**
  - The students engage their peers and promote the importance of voting.
  - Students used games and other tools they learned at the Kick-Off event to engage peers and increase interest.
  - Some hosted Rallies for Upperclassmen and others for the whole student body.





# Student Ambassador Program: Events

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- Voter Registration Drives
  - Students hosted booths at their school during lunch, sporting events and other school functions.
  - This encouraged voter registration for eligible students, teachers and family members.
  - We have encouraged students to register people to vote at community events such as parades and festivals in the fall.



# Student Ambassador Program: Events

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- Speaking to Peers About the Importance of Voting and Registration
  - Students speak to their peers in a smaller setting about the importance of voting.
  - The smaller setting not only helps the presenting students feel more comfortable but also for the audience to feel more comfortable asking questions.



# Student Ambassador Program: Events

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- Working with a Polling Precinct on Election Day or Volunteering with the County Elections Team
  - Students get to see the behind the scenes work that goes into making sure elections are fair, safe and secure.



# Student Ambassador Program: Events

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- Volunteering with a Non-Profit Organization
  - Students gain an understanding in the value of giving back to their community.
  - Some student groups partnered with organizations weekly throughout the school year.
  - They build connections and leadership skills through their volunteerism.



# Student Ambassador Program: Events

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- Serving as a Page During the Legislative Session
  - Students build connections with their local Representatives and State Senators.
  - They have the opportunity to see how the government functions at the state level and how changes are made.



# Student Ambassador Program: Events

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- Attend a Civic Meeting
  - Students get to meet with different groups and leaders within their community.
  - They learn about what is going on in their communities and the changes that are being made.
  - They have been asked to voice their opinions and questions during these events and have been encouraged by these organizations.



# Student Ambassador Program: Events

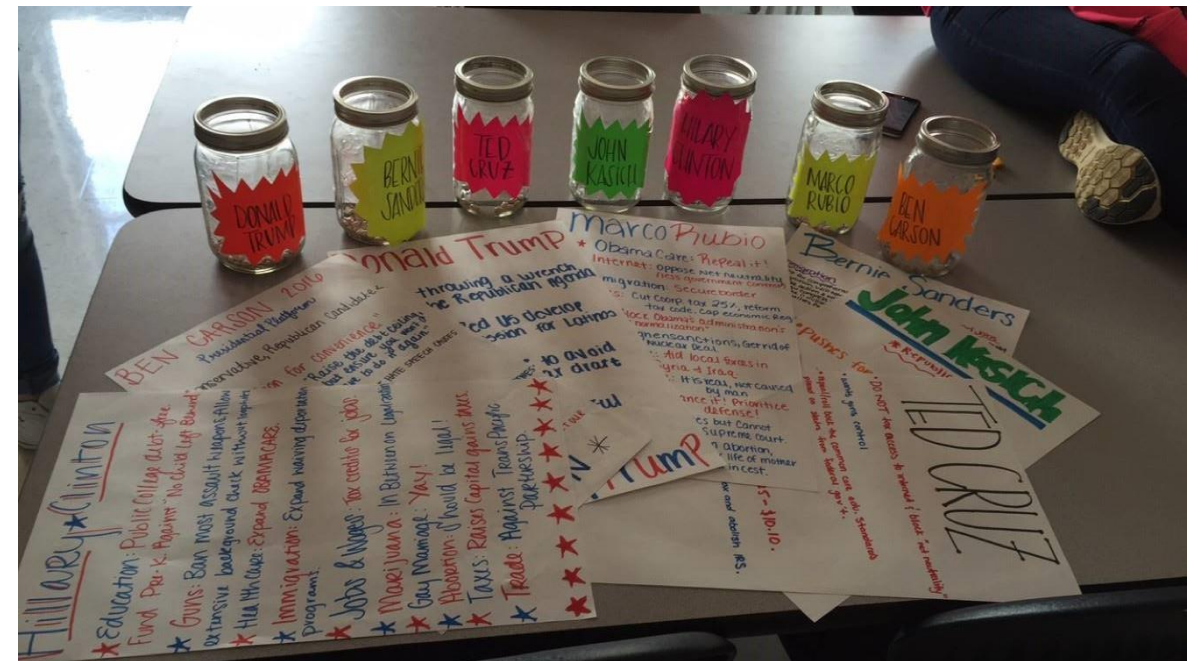
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- Researching and Reporting on a Current Event
  - Students take the initiative to learn about what is going on locally, nationally and globally.
  - Students have also taken this a step further to educate their peers.
  - They have taken the opportunity to share what they have learned as well.



# Student Ambassador Program: Events

- Hosting an Opinion Poll
  - Students use creativity and choose a wide range of topics.
  - They are able to learn their peers' views while also researching and determining their own opinion as well.





# Student Ambassador Program: Events

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- Holding a Day of Service
  - Students choose an initiative to partner their school with for a day.
    - Some schools have chosen to clean and beautify their campus.
    - Others have opted to try to end drinking and driving in their community by educating their peers on the dangers.



# Student Ambassador Program: Events

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- Create a Video About the Importance of Voting



# Student Ambassador Program: Contact

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