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

• **Partners:**
  • High Schools
  • Community Youth Leadership Groups such as Kiwanis and Chamber of Commerce

• **Participants:**
  • 10th, 11th and 12th 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

• 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

• 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

• 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

• 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

• **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

• 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

• 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

• 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

• 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

• 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

• 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

- 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

• 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

• Create a Video About the Importance of Voting
Student Ambassador Program: Contact

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