

# School Information Pack

## Ambassador Program

State Schools' Relief is proud to announce that we will be launching a **Student Ambassador Program** for the first time in 2020. The State Schools' Relief Ambassador Program is a youth development initiative focused on empowering Year 10 - 11 students from Victorian state schools by fostering their community service through fundraising and awareness campaigns.



*State Schools' Relief was founded in 1930 during the great depression, by Anton Vroland a Head Teacher from Elsternwick state school. On June 12, 1930, Anton Vroland organised a meeting with fellow teachers and principals who were concerned about the students living in the barges along the Yarra and huts around the Dudley Flat tip. At the conclusion of this meeting, the State Schools' Relief committee was formed to undertake any relief possible to Victorian students.*

It is our hope that through this program, we can inspire future generations to continue the amazing work that Anton Vroland started. In keeping with the ideals of SSR, this is a fully inclusive and free program that has no social, political or religious affiliations.

Young people are passionate, engaged and have voices that need to be heard. Any student with a passion in social justice and community service is highly encouraged to apply to be an ambassador, regardless of their circumstances or leadership position within the school.

Participation in education is the main way out of poverty and this pathway must remain open to every child. It is our belief that all students deserve the opportunity to participate in their school's educational activities without barriers. It is our mission to help break down these barriers.

As an Ambassador to your school, students will be responsible for thinking of and carrying out their own fundraising and awareness campaigns to support our mission.



## Benefits

### Participating in this program will help students to:

- Contribute to your school community
- Develop wider community awareness
- Develop confidence in public speaking and advocacy
- Attend professional development training workshops
- Develop problem solving skills as they face new challenges
- Enhance interpersonal skills through teamwork and leadership
- Gain experience in a leadership position and build their employability skills
- Develop communication, social media, marketing and event management skills
- Expand their professional networks with fellow ambassadors and stakeholders
- Take initiative in their own projects and enhance their ability to think creatively

## Key Requirements

### Students must have:

- Leadership skills
- A willingness to learn
- A passion for social justice
- Interest in community service
- Motivation to challenge themselves
- Communication and teamwork skills
- Time management and organisation skills
- The willingness to be an independent worker



## Key Responsibilities

### As part of the program, students must:

- Attend the Ambassadors Day on Friday 1 May 2020
- Raise awareness on issues of poverty in Australia, and how it affects students' access, participation, and inclusion in their schooling
- Manage communications with fellow ambassadors, peers and teachers
- Communicate with SSR via email and the Ambassador Program Facebook group
- Maintain a journal to record their progress through the year
- Complete at least 2 'projects'; either one fundraising and one awareness campaign, or two fundraising campaigns:
  - > Organise at least one major fundraising event at your school
  - > Reach your pledged fundraising amount by the end of the school year (a minimum of \$1,000 or approx. \$1 per student if there are less than 800 students in your school)
  - > Organise and participate in an event for Anti-Poverty week (11 – 17 October). This can be a part of either the awareness or fundraising project requirement.



# Application Process and Important Dates

Due to the level of interest received already, we have established an application process to ensure that funds raised will be distributed to the most disadvantaged students requiring SSR support.

The dates outlined below for Terms 1 and 2 are set, however it will be up to the school and Ambassadors to determine the campaign and fundraising dates in Terms 3 and 4. We believe that providing autonomy to the Ambassadors supports the empowerment of students!

## Term 1

### Friday 28 February

- Submit your Expression of Interest via email anytime up until this date
- Please indicate the following five items in your EOI:
  1. School name
  2. Staff contact name, phone and email who will liaise with SSR on behalf of the Ambassadors
  3. Approx. number of student Ambassadors (minimum of 4, no maximum)
  4. Confirmation that you support your students attending the Ambassador Day
  5. Category option/s that your school may like to support:
    - :: Refugee
    - :: Family violence
    - :: Homelessness
    - :: Housefire
    - :: Natural Disaster – drought, flood or fire
    - :: Indigenous
    - :: Financial Hardship
    - :: Unemployment
- Once your EOI has been received, you will be sent a Student Ambassador Information Pack to distribute. This pack will be worded slightly differently to the School Information Pack so that it is tailored to the students and will include a Campaign Resource Kit.
- Student Ambassadors can be selected through your teachers' nomination or through an application process of your design.



## Friday 13 March

- Ambassador nominations due to SSR
- Nominees must agree to undertake the key responsibilities listed in the School and Student Ambassador Information Pack, as well as attend the Ambassador Day
- Please provide the student email addresses to SSR (all communication to students will have the staff contact Cc'd)

## Friday 20 March

- Ambassadors announced

## Friday 27 March

- Dietary requirements due

## School Holidays

- Students brainstorm if they choose to



## Term 2

### Friday 17 April

- Ambassador Day Program of Events sent to schools and students

### Friday 1 May

- Ambassador Day, 10.00am – 3.00pm
- Victoria University, City Convention Centre
- Level 12, 300 Flinders Street, Melbourne

## Term 3

- Campaign #1 and/or
- Fundraising Event #1

## Term 4

- Campaign #2 (if students choose)
- Fundraising Event #2: during Anti-Poverty Week, Sunday 11 – Saturday 17 October
- Awards Ceremony: Thursday 3rd December (to be confirmed)



# Awards Ceremony

State Schools' Relief wants to acknowledge all the good work Ambassadors will have done to support our cause and thereby helping hundreds of children in Victoria participate in their education. On completing all the requirements of the program, participants will receive a certificate as recognition and acknowledgement of their achievement. This will be presented at an Award ceremony.

For Ambassadors that go above and beyond the requirements of the program to support State Schools' Relief in their schools and communities during the program, teachers in charge are encouraged to nominate them for the 'Rising Star' Award through a letter detailing their efforts. These students will receive a special certificate and trophy to honor their commitment and dedication to the program.

We look forward to having your school on board to ensure that all students are afforded the opportunity to participate in their school's educational activities without barriers.

## Get In Touch

If you have any questions or would like an Information Session to be held at your school during lunch or assembly, please contact us today.

### **Lisa Mac**

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