

Royal Circle Foundation, Inc.

**“YOUTH AMBASSADORS’ PROGRAM”  
ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA**

1. Applicants must be between the ages of 12 – 16 years old
2. Applicants must be currently enrolled as a full time student and maintain a GPA of at least 2.75 or higher
3. Applicants must be able to speak, read, and write in English
4. Applicants must reside within Baltimore City or Baltimore County
5. Applicants must be actively participating in a local community project or have demonstrated such participation within the past two years
6. Applicants must have a history of demonstrating good moral and ethical character
7. Applicants must not have a history of drug or alcohol abuse within the past year
8. Applicants must not have any criminal or legal charges currently or be under an investigation for any such charges
9. Applicants must submit a 100-word essay about what being a “Youth Ambassador” means and how they will utilize the experience to benefit their local community. Essay must be in applicant’s own words and must not be done by an adult. The essay should be preferably submitted by word processor or be typed. It can be submitted via e-mail but must be in the proper format. Handwritten essays are acceptable but must be legible or they will be returned to the submitter.
10. Applicants must be referred by at least two (2) adults other than their parents (e.g. teachers, coaches, clergy, social worker, other family member(s), doctors, etc.)

**NOTE:** The Youth Ambassador’s program is open to all youth meeting the above criteria regardless of ethnicity, religion, or gender.

**ROYAL CIRCLE FOUNDATION, INC.**  
*“Making A Difference Wherever We Go”*

**VIOLENCE PREVENTION INITIATIVE**

***Youth Ambassador's Program***

**INTRODUCTION:**

The Royal Circle Foundation, Inc. is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit charitable organization as designated by the Internal Revenue Service of the United States of America chartered in 2001. Since it's beginning, it has fostered service programs in a number of critical areas including health care, education, and cross-cultural exchanges. Some of the ongoing programs include:

- ❖ **Cultural Enrichment Lecture Series (CELS)** – providing information and fostering cultural awareness and improving human relations at home and abroad
- ❖ **Educational Assistance Program (EAP)** – promoting faculty-student exchanges across cultures and continents as well as providing educational materials and supplies to developing nations worldwide
- ❖ **Health Awareness Program (HAP)** – promotes health lifestyle choices for communities “at risk” in the United States of America
- ❖ **Health Outreach Program** – established to assist in meeting the health care needs of populations in developing nations through the provision of medical supplies and equipment, health care consultations, and health education awareness training
- ❖ **Operation Preservation Program** – promotes and assists in the preservation of historical sites globally
- ❖ **Women's Health Education Awareness Program** – designed to provide health and wellness information targeted to women in developing nations worldwide.

In 2005, the Royal Circle Foundation, began as an off shoot of the Educational Assistance Program, the **Youth Ambassador's Program** as a part of an ongoing need to assist “at risk” youth by providing an opportunity for exposure to other cultures abroad. It is the belief of the Board of Directors of the Foundation that primary prevention is the most effective tool in eliminating the possibility of having inner city young people spiral downward and not be able to maximize their potentials. In that vein, exposure to other cultures, ways of living, and gathering a keen sense of self and life purpose, will facilitate today's youth in terms of positive goal direction.

## **YOUTH VIOLENCE PREVENTION INITIATIVE:**

In 2008, the “Youth Ambassador’s Program” was launched as a part of the Foundation’s **Youth Violence Prevention Initiative** targeting specifically inner city “at risk” youth between the ages of 12 – 16 years of age. The program is designed to facilitate cross-cultural educational exchanges between youth in the city of Baltimore, MD (USA) and those of the West African country of Ghana. Foundation directors felt that providing young people who are most vulnerable an opportunity to experience a positive sense of self through this mechanism will have a tangible and uniquely positive experience in their lives.

Ghana was selected because it is basically an English speaking country, so that language would not be a barrier. It is rich in cultural heritage and history providing a foundation from which these inner city youth can participate in self-discovery as well as forge cross-cultural linkages with their peers in Africa, and provide a mechanism for these young people to be positively motivated and experience life differently than from “the streets.” This is coupled with the fact that the Foundation has existing programs and is firmly established within this country, as well.

The young people will spend up to two weeks in a carefully designed program that will provide them with a rich opportunity to learn, experience, and grow in a positive way. It is the aim to facilitate them becoming “Global Citizens” and as such will be “Ambassadors” learning to appreciate a culture different from their own and appreciating the need to be more sensitive and caring for other human beings. Those selected to participate will be based on an established criteria that indicates their desire to help others as well as themselves. They will meet with their peer group (students will be matched with respect to age, sex, and interests), work on a community project in a local rural village, as well as tour the country learning about history, culture, and the wonderful people of this land. They will see how other key human values are important for young people and that being a part of a “village” is key in terms of growth and development for young people there. It is the anticipation that “grounding” in such a rich experience will provide opportunities for growth, enrichment, and alternative thinking in terms of coping strategies, goal directedness, and life expectations.

They will be equipped with cameras and tape recorders and required to document the sights and sounds of this experience followed by a written report and verbal oratory presentation when they return back to the USA. In this way, we will be facilitating their written and oral communication skills in addition to heightening their cultural awareness and providing alternative options for coping. Upon return back to the USA, there will be a special awards ceremony for them honoring their accomplishments. In addition, all “Youth Ambassadors” will then become mentors for the next year’s selections of “Youth Ambassadors” thereby providing continuity and a sense of commitment and purpose in their lives as well as a way to monitor the success of the program in terms of preventive outcomes.

**ROYAL CIRCLE FOUNDATION, INC.**  
**YOUNG AMBASSADORS PROGRAM APPLICATION**  
(Please Print Legibly & Submit by December 31, 2011)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Telephone/Evening Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Email (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

Birthdate \_\_\_\_\_ Social Security# \_\_\_\_\_

Religion \_\_\_\_\_

Current School Attending \_\_\_\_\_

Address of School \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip of School \_\_\_\_\_

Current Grade Level/Grade Point Average \_\_\_\_\_

Community Activities \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Extra Curricular School Activities \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Hobbies/Interests \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Number of sisters and brothers in household \_\_\_\_\_

Ages of sisters and brothers in household \_\_\_\_\_

Page 2. (Youth Ambassador's Application)

Name of Applicant \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Parents \_\_\_\_\_

Address of parents (if not residing in same household); Leave blank if living at same home:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Ethnicity \_\_\_\_\_ Gender \_\_\_\_\_

Country of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Please list any special honors, awards, and/or recognition that you have received, if any\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

List the name of your favorite hero \_\_\_\_\_

Tell the reason that this person is your favorite hero \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

List three things that would make the world a better place in which to live \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

List three things that would make your life better \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Page 3. (Youth Ambassadors' Application)

Name of Applicant \_\_\_\_\_

**ESSAY PAGE**

(100 words or less)

Why I want to be a "Youth Ambassador" and how it will benefit my community.



**ROYAL CIRCLE FOUNDATION, INC.**

**YOUTH AMBASSADORS PROGRAM GENERAL INFORMATION**

1. Youth between the ages of 12 – 16 years of age are selected on a point system with pre-assigned values in the following areas: scholarship, community service, high ethical and moral standards, and communication skills (written and spoken). Each category is scored at a maximum of 25 points so that the maximum score that any youth can achieve is 100 points assigned by the selection committee.
2. The maximum number of youth that can be selected for any year is a total of ten. Depending on funding sources, this number may be less.
3. Youth approved for the “Young Ambassador’s Program” will be sent notification in writing along with a consent form from their parents which must be notarized in order for any minor child to travel outside of the United States when they are not accompanied by parents or legal guardians.
4. Parents can accompany children to Africa as part of this program but must be willing to adhere to the specific guidelines an outlined in the information sent upon approval of a given young person.
5. Selected youth will also be required to sign a contract indicating that they understand the rules of the program (e.g. no profanity, no stealing, no fighting, etc.) and must be medically cleared by their physician to travel to Africa.
6. Adult counselors (one for girls and one for boys) will accompany all selected youth throughout the entire duration of their ambassadorship program. Even if the biological parents of a young person selected are also traveling with the group, selected youth will still be monitored and supervised by the adult program counselors who are pre-screened by the Foundation.
7. All youth with share a room with another youth of the same sex and may not have a single room at any time.
8. Any youth that violates the terms of the Rules of Conduct document will be initially counseled and placed on observational status. Failure to adhere to these codes of conduct will result in the young person being removed from the program and returned home. Under such circumstances if a child has to be removed and returned home, additional costs will be at the expense of the child’s parents or legal guardian and will not be borne by the Foundation.
9. Parents or legal guardians will be responsible for securing the required travel documents (passports, visas, immunizations). The estimated costs for such will be around \$300.00. In instances where this is not possible, every attempt will be made to assist such families in raising funds through churches, school donations,

- sponsors, etc. However, the responsibility for bearing these ancillary costs rests solely with the parents and/or legal guardians of the selected child.
10. A full itinerary and overseas contact information will be provided to each parent or legal guardian of all children selected as “Youth Ambassadors” prior to the departure from the USA. All participants are required to have travel insurance prior to departure from the USA.
  11. All accommodations will be at least 4 star and above and all transport vehicles while in Africa will be aboard fully insured air-conditioned buses with licensed and bonded drivers.
  12. English speaking certified guides conduct all of the tours and assist in the supervision of these youth during their African experience.
  13. Time will be permitted during the week for selected youth to communicate via Internet back home to their families.
  14. Each student will be given a camera and a tape recorder in which to document their experiences and to share them when returning home as well as prepare for the awards presentation that will occur during the following year.
  15. The “Youth Ambassador’s Program” will generally take place over the school break period either in the summer’s or during the Christmas/New Year’s holiday and will not in any way interfere with student’s regular school sessions.
  16. All “Youth Ambassadors” will be required to make a formal presentation upon return at a location and time to be determined by the Foundation.
  17. “Youth Ambassadors” will be followed up every six months for up to two years post ambassadorship to monitor their progress.
  18. “Youth Ambassadors”, once selected, will participate in the selection process of future Ambassadors for the next year and facilitate their orientation process into the program.
  19. The families (parents and/or legal guardians) of selected “Youth Ambassadors” will be required to attend the orientation sessions with their youngsters as designated by the Foundation. Failure to do so, may subject their youngster’s ambassadorship being cancelled.
  20. The expectation is that all “Youth Ambassadors” will do well and be a benefit to their communities and make their families proud. As such, their demeanor and actions will be fully anticipated to reflect being a cultural representative worthy of being called an “Ambassador.”