

AMBASSADOR LEAGUE F.A.Q.

GENERAL GUIDELINES

Q. Should I send my reports by email or by regular mail?

A. We prefer all reports to be sent by email if at all possible. However, if you do not have internet access, you may mail in your reports. Verification forms may be scanned in and emailed, but otherwise we need the hard copy sent to HQ. Remember to keep a copy of ALL reports AND forms in a safe place in case you need them for verification purposes and for your mentor meetings.

Q. To which email address should I send my reports?

A. Please send all reports to amleague@ssi-online.org. Any personal correspondence for Mr. Muffett can be sent to james@ssi-online.org. To contact SSI about anything not related to Ambassador League, please send your email to ssi@ssi-online.org.

Q. What do I need to include in emailed reports?

A. All reports should follow the sample report format. Please consult your initial orders (the first paper in this packet) for all formatting requirements. In addition, each Mission should contain a set of instructions for writing a report. If the instructions are not clear, then you should just write about what you experienced and what you learned.

Q. At what point does work that I have done for the Ambassador League count?

A. The Ambassador League officially begins on September 1, 2009, and runs through August 31, 2010. Therefore, any volunteer work, campaign work, interviews, etc. completed *before* September 1 of this year will *not* count. However, if you wish to get started on any reading for book reports or Bible assignments beforehand, you certainly may! All assignments **MUST** be turned in to headquarters no later than August 31, 2010.

Q. Will I receive verification from HQ when they receive my assignments?

A. Once every two weeks, or thereabouts, you will receive an *Ambassador Alert* email from Mr. Muffett personally. This email lists every agent's name and the number of points earned and verified by headquarters. It will also contain answers to questions not already covered by this F.A.Q., volunteer opportunities, and lots of encouragement. Ambassador Alerts are also available online. We will, of course, only use first names and last initials on the website. If you do not have email, you will receive your Ambassador Alerts by mail.

Q. How important is it that I read the Ambassador Alerts?

A. You should keep track of your points as recorded by the Alerts and compare it with your own records. The Alerts are also sent to you for encouragement and to let you know about possible point-earning opportunities. If you do not read them, you may miss essential information. Agent, you are hereby ordered to read the Alerts!

Q. If I know others who want to sign up for the Ambassador League, how should they go about it?

A. Have them contact SSI and request an application, or print one from the website. Once an application is received, SSI will contact the applicant. Please note, however, that anyone signing up who has not already attended the Summer Program must attend within the official year of the AM league Course. Attending the Summer Program does not count for points, but it is required to complete the program.

MISSION: TACTICS

Q. What constitutes a "Mentor"?

A. Your mentor should be an adult who is willing to meet with you throughout the year for encouragement and accountability. Many students choose a family friend, a business leader, etc. Your mentor may not, however, be your parent(s), pastor, a youth pastor, or teacher. It must be someone who is not already teaching you in some capacity. You need to stretch a little and expand your territory as much as possible. When choosing your mentor, be sure to select someone you will be able to meet with regularly, ideally, someone in your own community. You do not have to choose someone you already know well, but should be someone you respect and has a good reputation. Part of the Mentor assignment is designed to help you learn to seek counsel from adults other than those with whom you are related. This is an essential life skill. However, your parents can and should play a major role in this effort, along with help from your pastor(s) or teachers.

Q. Can you explain the Mentor Meetings Form?

A. We want to encourage you to meet with your mentor 6 times throughout the year for accountability, encouragement and direction. Each time you meet, have your mentor fill in a section of the form. After you have met with your mentor 6 times throughout the year, send in the form via snail mail. This should be one of the last reports you send to Headquarters, since you'll be doing this throughout the whole year. If you signed up for Ambassador League in the middle of the year, you still get the benefit of meeting with your mentor 6 times, but you won't have to wait so long between meetings!

While the form needs to be sent to Headquarters, feel free to email Headquarters in the meantime just to share your experience with us. We'd love to hear some of the great advice your mentor is sharing with you... we may even share it in the Ambassador Alerts!

Q. When it comes time for me to promote SSI, how do I go about getting brochures and/or the promotional DVD?

A. We are very happy to help you promote us. Just contact our office at 877-464-6388 or email amleague@ssi-online.org, and tell us about the nature of the event where you'll be promoting SSI, and we'll get you everything you'll need (minus the TV/DVD player!). Please try to contact us 1-2 weeks before the event, so we'll be sure to get your supplies to you in time. Brochures or fliers are available usually by December. Promotional videos are also located on our website and can be played and/or downloaded for viewing.

MISSION: READ

Q. What if I don't agree with the books we're assigned to read?

A. Just as you experienced when preparing for and giving your speeches at SSI, we need to be aware of both sides of the issues. Reading a book with which you don't necessarily agree will only serve to enlighten you on the opposing viewpoint, thereby strengthening your own arguments as you seek to wipe out the opposition (so to speak).

MISSION: RESEARCH

Q. I read my Bible, but I've never done a "Word study". How do I go about doing this assignment?

A. Many of us read our Bible and glean lots of wisdom about God and all He's done for us. That's awesome! But for some of us, that's as far as we get. It's important, however, to know how to search the scriptures for answers to questions that are asked of us or to search for God's will on how to deal with challenges we may face on a day-to-day basis. For whatever reason, it's important to know HOW to study His Word. There are many ways to study Scripture, but following are suggestions that you may find helpful:

- Pray that God will reveal to you the meaning and wisdom of His Word.
- Look up the topic's key words in various Bible references: a concordance, a Bible dictionary (with Hebrew & Greek sections), and even a regular dictionary.
- Thoroughly review scriptures having to do with the topic.
- Analyze the scriptures' meanings, paying close attention to how they change or affirm your own points of view on the topic.
- Answer questions, such as: to whom was the scripture originally written? Why? What does it mean to us today?
- Compare traditional views vs. modern views on the scriptures you find.

When writing your report, write as if you're instructing someone who's never read about this topic in God's Word.

Follow the Holy Spirit's lead, and write about the scriptures you found and what they mean to you. Be sure to write a full page on each topic.

MISSION: OBSERVE

Q. When it says 'attend a local judicial trial', what kind of trial qualifies?

A. Any hearing held in a real courthouse with a real judge (or official referee of the court) counts. It can be over a misdemeanor or a civil suit or any other kind of judicial hearing where the public is invited.

Q. I'd like to shadow my state representative or my senator. How do I find out who that is?

A. There are several ways to locate them. Find out who your state legislators are by looking in the government section of your phone book under 'Michigan, State of' and then under 'House of Representatives' or 'Senate'. There is usually a general number listed, which you can call for information. Also check out sites on the web such as www.legislature.mi.gov. There are numerous other websites to check out as well, many of which are listed on the Ambassador Resources document included in this packet.

MISSION: TAKE ACTION

Q. Can I submit letters to the editor to other publications besides the local newspaper?

A. Yes. You may submit them to any publication. Remember, letters do not have to be published to qualify, only submitted. If they are published, however, we want you to send us a hard copy for our files. You may also submit the same letter to several publications; however, only one letter will qualify for points. Whether or not your letter is published, someone still has to read it – we rarely know which of the seeds we have sown will take root in someone’s heart.

Q. Can I volunteer at Student Statesmanship Institute for points?

A. Absolutely! We often have much to do and not enough hands to do it, so the answer to your question is yes, yes, YES! Volunteering for SSI will count toward volunteering for a non-profit. You can either come to our office here in Lansing or volunteer at an Onsite, at our Annual Banquet or at a number of other events throughout the state. Just call Sherrel in our office at 877-464-6388 to let us know your availability. You’ll also get requests for help in your Ambassador Alerts via email or snail mail. Opportunities abound!

Q. For the requirement where we have to volunteer 10 hours at a local organization that provides a service to the underprivileged, would volunteering at a hospital or my church count?

A. Think more along the lines of the Salvation Army, a soup kitchen, Volunteers of America, Goodwill, Habitat for Humanity, a women’s shelter, Special Olympics, Youth Haven, etc. Mission’s trips and church volunteer work will not count.

If you have any questions or need encouragement, *please* call the SSI office at 877-464-6388 or email amleague@ssi-online.org. We are here to help you succeed!