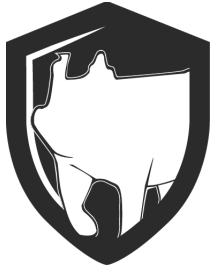




TEXAS PORK

JUNIOR AMBASSADORS

HANDBOOK



TEXAS PORK

JUNIOR AMBASSADORS

REP
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PORK

OVERVIEW

The Texas Pork Producers Association has dedicated numerous years advocating, educating, and encouraging Texas youth. With efforts to continue our mission of advancing a sustainable and profitable pork industry, the association was inspired to create a youth program that would generate visible youth leaders for our industry and communities.

In 2023, the Texas Pork Producers Association Junior Ambassador Program was implemented to create current and future youth advocates. Over the course of two years, junior ambassadors will participate in association events, youth tours, personal development training, and educational

sessions. Junior ambassadors will encourage, educate, and serve to help take part in actively advocating wherever they are.

The program allows TPPA to connect, shape and grow the youth who are our future. The junior ambassador program will challenge youth to strive to want more for themselves and their surroundings while learning more about the swine industry.

WHAT WILL JUNIOR AMBASSADORS DO?

The goal of becoming a TPPA Junior Ambassador is to motivate and educate the youth of Texas while learning more about the swine industry as a whole. Junior ambassadors will work with TPPA staff, TPPA Board of Directors, membership, and industry professionals.

Junior ambassadors can expect to:

- Participate in training, orientation, and self-development activities
- Assist in facilitating all association events
- Have the opportunity to travel to different regions of Texas to meet with different members of the swine and agricultural industry
- Network with other junior ambassadors and youth throughout the state
- Improve public speaking, time-management, networking skills, and more
- Provide content for TPPA website and magazine issues
- Pioneer new ways to improve and educate the Texas swine industry

2023-2025 | TEXAS PORK JUNIOR AMBASSADORS



Audrey Ratliff
Valley View, TX



Braelyn Pointer
Sudan, TX



Brooke Reininger
Marion, TX



Landri Ottmers
Fredericksburg, TX



Landry Miller
Abernathy, TX



Kynnley Herrington
Marion, TX



GUIDELINES

Application/Terms

Texas Pork Producers Association Junior Ambassadors will serve a term of two (2) years. Applications open each year on March 1st and close May 1st.

Number of Junior Ambassadors

Each year, four (4) junior ambassadors will be selected to serve a two (2) year term. Every year during June, a new group of four (4) members be elected.

**For the first year (2023), we will elect six (6) junior ambassadors. Following 2023, we will move forward with selecting four (4) junior ambassadors each year.

Selection Process

Eligible applicants for the junior ambassador program must be ages 17-21 as of January 1 of the application year.

On March 1st of each year, the application process will open. The application will be comprised of a handful of essay questions and three (3) references. At least one reference listed must be a TPPA member. Applicants must complete the application by May 1st. From there, the youth advisory committee will review all applications anonymously.

Through a rubric given, applicants can earn up to 80 points. Each committee member will review and award points to each application. Once all applications are sent in, the Director of Youth and Communications will add all points together. The highest scores will be interviewed.

Applicants will be notified of their status by May 15th.

Interviews will be conducted virtually on Friday, May 24th with the applicant, an outside group of industry professionals, and the Director of Youth and Communications. The applicant will be asked questions formed by an outside group of industry professionals. Interviews will last no longer than 20 minutes.

After all interviews are completed, the interview panel will rank the applicants individually. Rankings will determine which youth members will be selected to serve as a Texas Pork Producers Association Junior Ambassador.

Junior ambassadors will be announced within 24 hours of the final interview.





STRUCTURE

After the first year involved in the junior ambassador program, members will have the opportunity to interview for officer positions. Positions selected will be as follows:

Membership & Outreach Director

- Assists with improving, creating, and elevating membership on all levels to increase engagement and involvement. This included working closely with the TPPA staff to innovate ideas of how we can better advocate for the association and carry out important duties for the association.

Events Director

- Assists with planning and coordinating events of the association. This includes, but is not limited to: Texas Pork Industry Conference & Youth Symposium, Texas Pork Leadership Camp, Texas' Elite Showcase, and more. This includes working closely with TPPA staff and committee chairman's.

Education Director

- Assists with improving, creating, and elevating educational material for the Association. This includes working and learning from industry leaders and TPPA staff to develop educational content for membership.

Communications Director

- Assists with improving, creating, and elevating all TPPA social platforms. This included working closely with the Director of Youth and Communications to create social and communication campaigns, newsletters, and more for all elements of TPPA.

Director titles can vary depending on the group of junior ambassadors on their second term.





EXPECTATIONS

Junior ambassadors will be held to a higher standard as they will be expected to represent the association and our industry at many levels. It is required that junior ambassadors put forth all efforts to fulfill their duties during his or her term.

A term with the TPPA Junior Ambassador Program is a two-year commitment. Ambassadors are expected to attend all meetings unless excused by the Director of Youth and Communications or the youth advisory board. This may include missing social; however, the association understands that unforeseen circumstances arise. Please reach out to TPPA staff immediately if this instance occurs.

All junior ambassadors are required to attend the following events:

- TPPA Junior Ambassador Program Orientation
- TPPA Junior Ambassador Program Tour
- TPPA Junior Ambassador Program Beginning of the Year Planning
- Texas' Elite Showcase
- BBQ Austin
- Texas Pork Industry Conference

Junior ambassadors could, but are not guaranteed, have the opportunities to attend events such as:

- Rodeo Austin barrow show
- FFA/4-H Events
- Local Ag Awareness Days
- Texas Pork Leadership Camp

TPPA Junior Ambassador Program will be reimbursed for travel and lodging expenses incurred when attending meetings and shows at which time they are designated official TPPA responsibilities.

All junior ambassadors must be in good academic standing with their school/university, if he or she is actively pursuing their education. If TPPA is told otherwise, the junior ambassador will be suspended until his or her grades are above standards.

CODE OF CONDUCT & VALUES

By serving as a TPPA Junior Ambassador, you have the responsibility to set a prime example of how to treat, support, and respect others. You will have many opportunities to represent the association on the local, state, and national stage. The following guidelines are to provide a clear understanding of what is expected of you as a junior ambassador.

- Treat others with respect at all times. Your reputation as a board member does not stop once you leave an event.
- Support all youth members and exhibitors during livestock events. You are expected to encourage and motivate youth.
- Always be willing to assist wherever is possible with a positive attitude.
- Respect your surroundings.
- Questionable and unbecoming language and behavior is prohibited, especially when serving as a TPPA Junior Ambassador at an event. If there is severe misconduct, there will be consequences.
- Dress appropriately at all times.
- Be on time to all events excepted of you as a Junior Ambassador.
- Strive to have a positive attitude. If an issue arises, please contact the Director of Youth and Communications or the Youth Advisory Board.
- Be honest with yourself and others.
- Always have integrity in all that you do.
- Remain responsible and accountable when fulfilling duties as a junior ambassador

The association staff, board of directors, and membership wants to see you succeed. Although these standards are high, we want to challenge you to want the best for yourself as you move forward in all that you may do.

ASSISTING INFORMATION

Travel

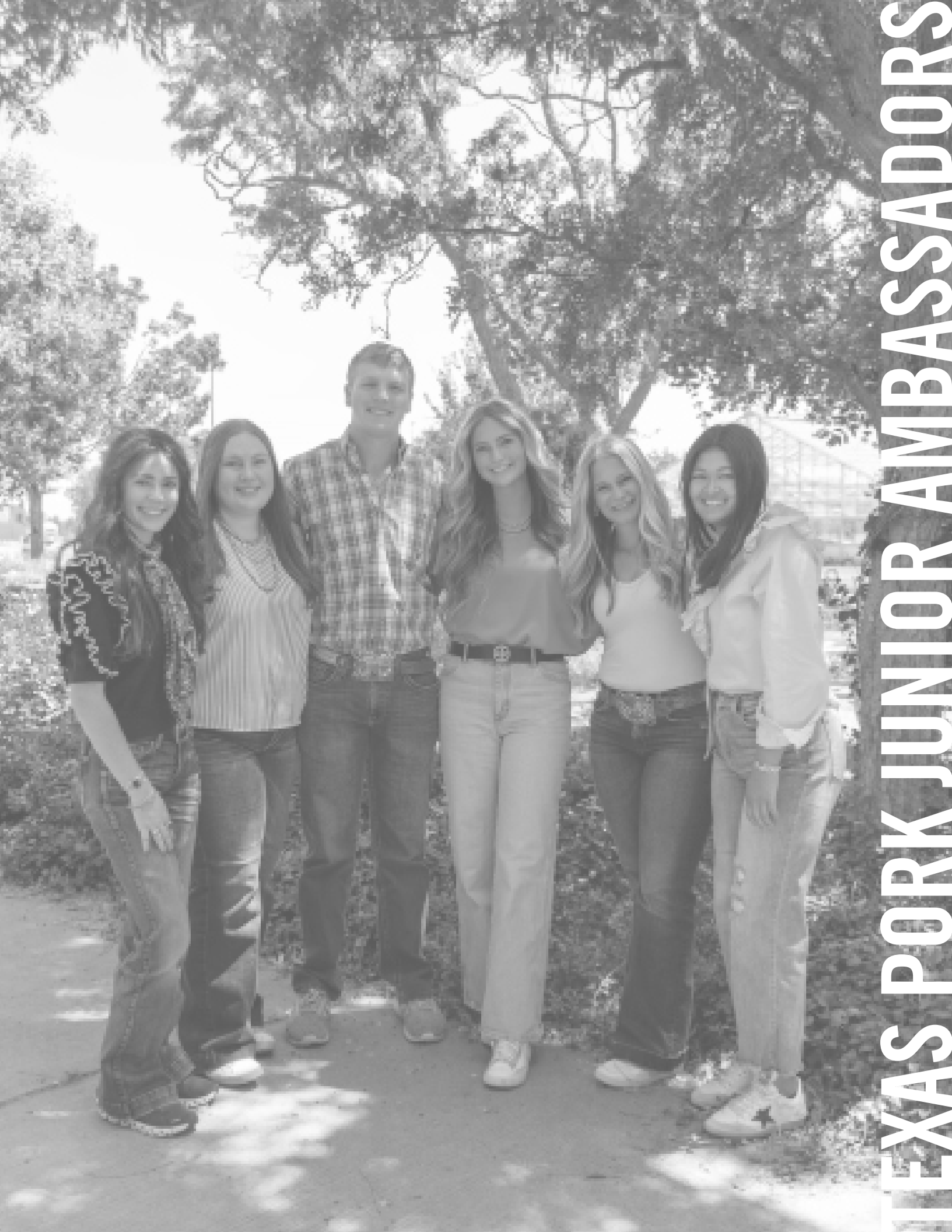
All ambassadors will travel at the cost of TPPA. If a member is more than 250 miles from the TPPA office, we will pay for their flight. Special circumstances can be accommodated as needed.

Transportation

To reduce liability concerns, ambassadors will not be allowed to drive while at the junior ambassador tour. Junior ambassadors will be allowed to use their own vehicles at events upon approval. Other vehicles used will be by TPPA staff.

Liability/Medical Forms

Prior to the TPPA Junior Ambassador Orientation, all ambassadors must sign the Activities Permission Form and Medical Form. The activities permission form serves as a liability form that covers all industry tours and extra-curricular activities. The medical form authorizes TPPA staff and assisting adults to take action to protect the health and well-being of the ambassador during the program. This form also includes an emergency contact, health conditions, and medication.



TEXAS PORK JUNIOR AMBASSADORS

EVENTS

Texas Pork Industry Conference

May 17-18 | San Marcos

Junior ambassadors will be responsible for leading the youth program during the annual Texas Pork Industry Conference. In addition, ambassadors will assist with the check-in process, awards banquet, and other events as needed.

Newly selected junior ambassadors will not be required to attend conference the year he/she is selected.

TPPA Junior Ambassador Program Orientation

TPPA Office, Lubbock

1st Year Ambassadors – July 14-17 | 2nd Year Ambassadors – July 16-19

First year ambassadors will begin the week with an extensive review the program, participate in public speaking/crisis communications training, expand their knowledge about the industry, as well as engage in personal and professional development activities.

In the middle of the week, both groups of ambassadors will come together for team building activities, brainstorming, and workshops. Second year ambassadors will finish off the week with professional development activities, civic leadership, and discussions government representatives.

TPPA Junior Ambassador Tour

Washington D.C and Des Moines, IA - July 24th-31st

The goal of the Junior Ambassador Tour is to allow ambassadors to further their knowledge while gaining valuable networking experiences. For 2024, the retreat will be in Washington D.C and Des Moines, IA.

Tour stops will be announced by the TPPA Junior Ambassador Orientation.

TPPA Junior Ambassador Beginning of the Year Planning

Virtually- Monday, January 6th, 2025

This meeting will consist of an overview of major show season, Texas' Elite Showcase planning, the Collected Advantage Semen Sale, magazine/promotional topics, and the planning of the Youth Symposium. The goal of this meeting will to ensure everyone is on the same page of what is expected during the next few months.

Texas' Elite Showcase

February 2025 – Kerrville, TX

Junior ambassadors will assist with the check-in process, show ring help, encouraging exhibitors, and helping wherever is needed.

BBQ Austin

March 2025 – Austin, TX

Junior ambassadors will assist with serving food samples to the public. In addition, ambassadors will communicate and educate consumers about the industry.



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