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THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE of SOUTH DAKOTA

"Let us love, not in speech or talk, but in truth and action." - *1 John 3:18*

Thunderhead Episcopal Center (TEC) Ambassadors

TEC Ambassadors are connectors, storytellers, and champions for Thunderhead Episcopal Center within their congregations and communities. This role is **distinct from serving on the TEC Committee**. Ambassadors focus on communication, invitation, and relationship-building rather than governance or oversight.

Purpose

The primary purpose of TEC Ambassadors is to expand the reach of information and build shared investment in Thunderhead Episcopal Center across the Diocese. Ambassadors help ensure that families, youth, and congregations know what TEC offers and how to get involved.

Vision

The ministry of Thunderhead Episcopal Center is strengthened when it is shared.

By commissioning TEC Ambassadors in congregations throughout the Diocese, TEC invites shared leadership and collective storytelling. Ambassadors are empowered to speak with pride about TEC, create new pathways for connection, and help more people find their way into camp, retreat, and relationship with the Center.

This shared model broadens participation, deepens diocesan ownership of TEC, and allows the Canon for TEC and Youth Ministries to focus more fully on program leadership rather than carrying every family-level connection alone.

What TEC Ambassadors Do

TEC Ambassadors serve as a **local point of connection** between TEC and their congregation or community. This may include:

- Sharing information about:
    - Camp dates and session offerings
    - Registration processes
    - Transportation options
    - Scholarships and financial support

- Helping recruit:
    - Campers and families
    - Summer staff
    - Volunteers (camp prep week, shutdown week, work groups)

- Promoting TEC events and opportunities:
    - Youth & Camp Programs
    - Rental opportunities
    - Volunteer days or work weekends

- Hosting or supporting a TEC-related gathering or info session at their congregation (optional, with support)

All materials shared with Ambassadors will be clear, accessible, and easy to find on the TEC website.

Support & Communication

- Ambassadors will gather with the Canon for TEC and Youth Ministries **monthly or bimonthly** (depending on season).
- In months without meetings, Ambassadors will receive concise information sheets or updates via email.
- Training and guidance will be provided—no one is expected to be an expert right away.

Time Commitment

Approximately **2–3 hours per month**, plus occasional optional events.

Who Makes a Great TEC Ambassador?

You do **not** need prior camp experience (though it helps). TEC Ambassadors are people who:

- Are eager to learn about TEC and share that enthusiasm with others
- Are comfortable talking with families, youth, or parish leadership
- Check email regularly and respond to occasional requests
- Have connections to youth ministries, formation programs, or community groups (a plus, not a requirement)

Recognition & Community

TEC values the ministry of its Ambassadors and will offer:

- Annual recognition and gratitude
- A yearly Ambassador gathering (lunch or dinner at TEC, with options in both Rapid City and Sioux Falls)
- TEC Ambassador swag, including special shirts for Diocesan Convention

Interested?

Please fill out this Google Form. Individuals may self-nominate or be encouraged by clergy or congregational leadership.

Serving as a TEC Ambassador is a meaningful way to support diocesan camp and youth ministry, build relationships, and help ensure that everyone who wants to experience TEC knows how to do so.

The Mission of Thunderhead Episcopal Center is to provide a loving environment in which people can interact with the wonder of creation, be challenged by the Holy Spirit, find rest and adventure, and truly know the joy of being accepted fully for who they are.