

# ***Penn State Teach Ag! Avenger Program***

## **Purpose:**

To effectively and efficiently reach out to the next generation of positive agents of change in school-based agricultural education with the most effective source available: our current students.

## **Primary Teach Ag! Ambassador Objectives:**

- 1) To effectively engage current secondary students to major in agricultural education
- 2) To effectively engage current post-secondary students to major in agricultural education, pursue double majors or pursue post-baccalaureate certification.
- 3) To serve as the representative “face” of the PSU Agricultural Education Teacher Education program at State and National Agricultural Education functions
- 4) To serve as the student representative of the PSU Agricultural Education Teacher Program for college and university functions
- 5) To ensure that PSU Agricultural Education has an appropriate social networking presence (Facebook, Twitter, Blogs, etc)

## **Timeline**

Call for applications released	11/15/16
Applications postmarked or emailed to Melissa Sankey by	Friday, December 2
Interviews/Presentation	week of December 5th
Avengers announced	December 9
Mandatory training	January 16, 2017
Incentive Payment for completion	January 2018

## **Position Description**

Penn State is seeking the most outstanding agricultural education majors to represent the profession as Penn State Teach Ag! Avengers for 2017.

Teach Ag Avengers will be responsible for being the face of the program at agricultural education and youth organization events (FFA, 4H, etc) throughout the year. It will be their job to encourage FFA members to consider a career in agricultural education by engaging students in conversations about their future career goals, answering questions about majoring in agricultural education, and portraying the profession in a positive light.

## **Student Benefits:**

- Develop competency in advocacy for school-based agricultural education
- Provided one official PSU Teach Ag! Shirts, designed by the team and approved by the coordinator
- Provided use of iPad for duration of term as PSU Teach Ag! Avenger
- Provided mileage to all activities
- Hourly wage of \$10/hour for completion of non-event tasks
- Per Event compensation determined by PSU Teach Ag! Coordinator
- Incentive Payment of \$500 for completing the minimum 6 events with appropriate reporting and the final year-long report
- First opportunity to attend State, Regional, and National Agricultural Education Events including National FFA Convention, NAAE National Conference, PAAE Conference dependent upon available funds.

### **Student Obligations:**

- To meet monthly as a team with the PSU Teach Ag Avenger Coordinator employed by the Center for Professional Personal Development.
- To conduct a minimum of 3 Teach Ag Events per semester per ambassador and complete post-event report. [Note: Only one ambassador may receive full credit for any one event; however partial credit can be agreed upon]
- To complete a final report by December 1<sup>st</sup> of year long experience.

### **Selection Process & Eligibility:**

Selection for ambassadorship is a competitive process, and being selected means we believe you are one of the best and brightest future agriculture teachers. After application submittal, each candidate will be called in for a face-to-face interview. Candidates will interact with a panel to converse about serving as a Teach Ag! Avenger, as well as conduct a 10 minute presentation to the panel. Individual candidate logistics will be handled post application submittal.

Six students will be selected. Students may attend **any** campus in the Penn State system, but must be prepared for monthly team meetings at University Park, which can be attended virtually. All students selected must be declared AEE majors with intentions to teach secondary agricultural education. All student selected must be student members of PAEE. To confirm your membership status, contact Mike Brammer at [c-mbrammer@pa.gov](mailto:c-mbrammer@pa.gov)

### **Application Requirements**

To be considered applicants must submit electronically to Melissa Sankey, [mls501@psu.edu](mailto:mls501@psu.edu), in one pdf document with the following by 11:59pm EST on Friday, December 2nd. Use email Subject Line: Teach Ag Avenger Application

1. Letter of Interest (max 2 pages), please indicate
  - a. Why do you want to be an avenger
  - b. What you can contribute to the program
  - c. Why agricultural education is important
2. Resume
  - a. Be sure to include links to all digital profiles (ie Twitter, Facebook, blog, etc)
3. **Essay: Maximum of 750 words on the topic: Why should a high school senior attend Penn State, majoring in agricultural and extension education? Must have 3 external references in APA format and clearly explain one strategy Teach Ag Avengers would employ to recruit the student to attend Penn State.**
4. A document/application containing the following information:
  - a. Name
  - b. Campus
  - c. Major(s)/Minor(s)
  - d. Year in School
  - e. Email
  - f. Twitter Handle
  - g. Blog Address
  - h. Phone
  - i. Current Mailing Address
  - j. Advisor/Major Professors Name
  - k. Your Signature
  - l. Explanation of your capacity to dedicate an average of 10 hours/week to Teach Ag Avenger Program including accounting for credit hours; other jobs; other club involvement.

For questions, contact, Teach Ag Campaign Coordinator, at [mls501@psu.edu](mailto:mls501@psu.edu) or phone at 814-863-7850.