

2017 CANDIDATE'S RELEASE & AGREEMENT

CALIFORNIA STATE TEEN AMBASSADOR'S COMPETITION

FOR THE TITLES OF:
CALIFORNIA STATE'S TEEN AMBASSADRESS
CALIFORNIA STATE'S TEEN AMBASSADOR

ENTRY DEADLINE: **FRIDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2017**

<http://www.youthfocusinc.org/>

CANDIDATE AND PARENTS AGREE TO ABIDE BY ALL RULES AND REGULATIONS SET FORTH HEREIN BY YOUTH FOCUS INC. AND ITS DIRECTORS. ANY INFRACTION OF THE RULES AND REGULATIONS ARE SUBJECT TO DISQUALIFICATION AND/OR FORFEITURE OF ANY AND ALL TITLES, PRIZES, SCHOLARSHIPS OR AWARDS RECEIVED IN CONJUNCTION WITH CALIFORNIA STATE TEEN ACCOLADES AMBASSADOR'S COMPETITION AND ANY AND ALL RELATED ACTIVITIES.

A. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

1. Candidate must:
 - a. Be a resident of the State of California and presently attending a public, private or home school within the State.
 - b. Be in good health.
2. Candidate must be between the ages of 13 and 16 as of the first day of the program, Friday, November 10, 2017.
3. Candidate must attend school in the state of California should they achieve the title of California State Teen Ambassador/Ambassadress during their year of service.
4. Candidate agrees that if selected as California State's Teen Ambassador/Ambassadress he or she is prohibited from earning or attempting to earn any other titles during the months of his/her reign that would conflict with the obligations outlined in this agreement. *(This provision may exclude some titleholders who wish to compete in the California State Youth Accolades Teen Ambassador's Competition or California State Teen Ambassador's Competition in 2018.)*
5. Candidate must register at Orientation on Friday, November 10, 2017.
6. Candidate must participate in all Competition activities November 10-11, 2017.
7. The California State Teen Accolades Ambassador's Competition reserves the right to reject any Candidate or application if it is ascertained that untrue or false information has been provided to Youth Focus Inc.
8. Incomplete applications will not be accepted.

B. RULES OF CONDUCT

1. The following Rules of Conduct apply equally to all activities associated with Youth Focus Inc. and the California State Teen Accolades Ambassador's Competition.
2. Candidate is:
 - a. At all times to uphold the standards of conduct, which exemplify proper sportsmanship and fellowship. Candidate is expected at all times to behave with respect, concern, and sensitivity towards his/her fellow candidates, chaperones, and other volunteers, and whomever they might come in contact with.
 - b. At all times, at all activities, to be in the company of a sanctioned chaperone. A sanctioned chaperone is defined as an adult volunteer designated by Youth Focus Inc. as fit to provide appropriate supervision.
 - c. Prohibited from having possession of or using a cell phone or other electronic communication device during any official competition activities including workshops, rehearsals and ALL phases of competition.
 - d. To only enter buildings and rooms designated for activities. He/she is prohibited from leaving any room during any activity without the express permission of the competition director, and then only when accompanied by a sanctioned chaperone.
 - e. Prohibited from speaking to or being in the presence of the competition judges, individually or as a panel, at all activities excluding those designated for interaction by Youth Focus Inc., and then only when accompanied by a chaperone.
 - f. Required to promptly arrive at and leave from all activities.

C. FEES, APPLICATION FILING DEADLINE, AND IMAGE REQUIREMENTS

1. All required applications forms, transcripts, music (if applicable), candidate portrait, agreement and medical release must be uploaded/submitted online at: www.youthfocusinc.org by **FRIDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2017**.
2. Candidate portrait must be print quality resolution (300 dpi) and should be taken on a neutral background.
3. The entry/sponsor fee of \$250.00 is non-refundable and must be paid online or postmarked by **FRIDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2017**. Mail to:

ATTN: Entrant's Director
Youth Focus Inc.
3031 Tisch Way PW110
San Jose, CA 95128

D. JUDGING & PHASES OF COMPETITION

1. Candidate and parent(s)/guardian(s) agree that the time, manner, and method of judging the California State Youth Accolades Scholarship Competition and the awards and supervision of the scholarships shall be within the sole discretion of the Board of Directors of Youth Focus Inc., and the decision of the persons so designated to judge the various events in any and all matters pertaining to the selection of the title and award recipient shall be final in all cases.

2. Candidate and parent(s) must sign and submit the following forms and fees in order to participate in the competition:
 - a. Entry/Sponsor Fee (as specified in Section C.3).
 - b. Candidate's Official Application and Candidate's Release & Agreement (as specified in Section C.1).
 - i. Music, if applicable, must be edited to the appropriate length (as specified in Section C.1 and E.4). Candidate is responsible for edited music to the appropriate length; music will not be edited by Youth Focus Inc.
 3. Candidate will be judged in the following phases of competition:
 - a. **PERSONALITY INTERVIEW**
 - i. In this phase of competition, the judges meet with each of the Candidates in a seven-minute informal interview. At this time, the judges evaluate the Candidate's performance in response to a variety of questions. The Candidate's knowledge, perception, mental alertness and awareness of current events are evaluated. Articulation and self-expression are carefully reviewed. This area of competition provides an opportunity for the judges to focus upon the Candidate's sense of values, attitudes, future goals and aspirations and that number one quality so important in life, personality. Personal appearance and grooming habits provide the judges with a greater insight relative to the Candidate's ability to assume a position as a public relations specialist.
 - b. **PERSONALITY SPEECH**
 - i. In the Personality Speech, the candidate is to provide an on-stage commentary up to 60 seconds including their name, age, school, grade, and why they would like to serve as Teen Ambassador/Ambassador. Candidate's personality and potential as a community ambassador and public relations specialist is evaluated.
 - ii. Time limit: 60 seconds. Five (5) second grace period is allowed. A 50% penalty will be imposed on the final score for this phase upon exceeding the time limit.
 - c. **EXTEMPORANEOUS QUESTIONS**
 - i. In the Extemporaneous Question, the Candidate is provided with a question relating to an area of interest from the Candidate's Official Application. This Competition provides the judges the opportunity to evaluate the Candidate's ability to speak before a group and the effectiveness of his or her communication skills. Consideration is given to the creativity and content of their response with regards to the pressures and demands of spontaneity in the public forum. Overall appearance relative to their potential as a community Ambassador and public relations specialist is again evaluated. There is no time limit.
 - d. **SPEECH PRESENTATION/STAGE ARTS COMPETITION**
 - i. **Candidates have the choice in this phase of competition of presenting:**
 1. **A speech presentation.**
 2. **A performing arts skill, which has been mastered through dedicated study.**
 3. **Both types of presentations will be judged equally.**
 4. Time limit: Not more than two (2) minutes in length.
 5. A fifteen (15) second grace period is allowed.
 6. A 50% penalty will be imposed on the final score for this phase upon exceeding the time limit.
 - ii. **CRITERIA FOR SPEECH PRESENTATIONS**
 1. The purpose of the speech competition is to evaluate each Candidate's skills in developing qualities as a public relations specialist who will be addressing community groups in public speaking activities. The Candidate is to prepare a speech on a topic of their choice, such as a hobby, skill, interest or other topic that the Candidate would advocate for as a community representative/youth ambassador.
 2. The Candidate is judged on language, grammar, delivery, power of expression, dynamics and general effectiveness. Candidates are allowed to use note cards for the delivery of the speech.
 - iii. **CRITERIA FOR PERFORMING ARTS PRESENTATIONS**
 1. In selecting a Performing Arts Presentation, the Candidate displays a live talent. In this phase of competition the Judges consider degree of difficulty and technical ability.
 2. Types presentation include, but are not limited to, monologue, dramatic reading, dancing, vocal performance (singing), instrumental performance (piano, guitar, flute, etc.), art demonstration/presentation, dramatic reading, cheer routine, etc.
- E. STAGE ARTS COMPETITION RESTRICTIONS**
1. **GENERAL RESTRICTIONS**
 - a. Candidate's Stage Arts presentation must be performed solo, live on stage during the competition show.
 - b. Due to fire regulations, candidate is prohibited from performing a fire baton routine or any other talent act involving fire. If the presentation would normally require the element of fire, he/she must make arrangements to alter his/her presentation to meet these regulations.
 - c. Candidate who chooses to perform a vocal presentation, song/dance combo, monologue, poetry reading, or other oral communication presentation must use a microphone, the size and type of, which will be designated by the competition director and stage technicians.
 2. **STAGE RESTRICTIONS**
 - a. The competition director and stage technicians shall predetermine stage design, background, decorations, and lighting specifications for Candidate's Stage Arts presentation.
 - b. The competition director and stage technicians shall predetermine entrances and exits for Candidate's Stage Arts presentation. Blocking or stage placement is solely at the discretion of the Candidate.
 - c. Candidate is prohibited from using any of the stairs, ramps, or other such areas surrounding the main stage area for his/her Stage Arts presentation. Candidate is allowed complete use of, and freedom of movement on, the main stage area, the parameters of which shall be defined by the competition director and stage technicians.

3. FORMAT RESTRICTIONS

- a. Candidate who makes use of a film, video, or slide presentation in conjunction with his/her Stage Arts presentation is responsible for providing all necessary equipment including but not limited to projector, screen, lap-top, power cords, etc.
- b. Candidate is prohibited from presenting an electronic recording of themselves or their voice as the sole source for their Stage Arts presentation. Any Candidate who chooses to record his/her own singing voice or musical ability may use that recording in conjunction with his/her presentation, however announcement of such will not be made, nor will the judges be so notified. If Candidate wishes to be judged on multiple abilities, he/she must do ALL of them live on stage.

4. PRE-RECORDED MUSIC RESTRICTIONS

- a. Candidate is prohibited from using a pre-recorded musical selection with a false ending, or those songs, which have an unusual ending or stop with a repeat or reprise a few seconds later. A false ending does not apply to "stop rhythm," drum, or percussion rhythms as part of a trick or challenge dance.
- b. A false ending is defined as follows:
 - i. A two-measure phrase, which is added to a dance routine, usually for exiting purpose or transition.
 - ii. A musical selection, which has a definite ending or has been completed, yet has a reprise or a reoccurrence of similar musical phrasing, usually for the purpose of continuing a sequence of dance steps, or encore.
- c. Candidate is prohibited from use of a musical selection, which is cued to begin sometime after the initial start of his/her Stage Arts presentation.
- d. Candidate, who chooses to pantomime or lip-sync to pre-recorded music, must specifically state that he/she is doing so in their description of their Stage Arts presentation on the Official Application as there can be no inference that the Candidate is actually singing live.
- e. Candidate must name the original artist/author/musician of his/her work even if piece is self-written.

5. VOCAL RESTRICTIONS

- a. Candidate, who chooses to sing, must perform that talent live, solo or with minimal recorded vocal accompaniment.
- b. Candidate is prohibited from singing "a cappella." Candidate must have some form of pre-recorded musical or live accompaniment.

6. INSTRUMENTAL RESTRICTIONS

- a. Candidate, who chooses to play a musical instrument, must perform his/her music selection memorized. Absolutely no sheet music will be allowed on stage during the competition show.
- b. Candidate is responsible for ALL costs associated with the transportation or shipping of the Candidate's choice of instrument to and from rehearsal and competition sites.

7. ARTS & CRAFTS RESTRICTIONS

- a. Candidate may choose to present his/her artistic talents including but not limited to sketches, paintings, graphic or commercial art, sewing or dressmaking. Candidate is restricted to presentation of items that were originally crafted by the candidate.
- b. Candidate must have articles authenticated as the Candidate's original creations. A qualified individual other than the Candidate's relatives or family members must provide a written statement of authenticity to be attached to the Candidate's Official Application. Examples of qualified individuals include public or private school instructors, scout leaders or 4-H leaders, ministers or other community leaders.

8. PROP RESTRICTIONS

- a. Candidate is prohibited from using props not functional to his/her Stage Arts presentation. Youth Focus Inc. provides such basic props as stools, chairs, tables, microphones, etc. However for candidate's comfort and ease of performance, it is recommended that he/she bring a personal basic prop that he/she may have practiced with, to the rehearsal and competition sites.
- b. ALL props must be of acceptable safety standards and appearance (clean, freshly painted, free of decay, etc.). Candidate must provide a written description of ALL props to be used in conjunction with his/her Stage Arts presentation in the section provided on the Official Application. The director reserves the right to final discretion in conjunction with ALL Stage Arts props.
- c. Candidate is responsible for ALL costs associated with the transportation, shipping, load-in/load-out, installation or rigging of the Candidate's choice of props to and from all rehearsal and competition sites.

F. WARDROBE RESTRICTIONS

1. GENERAL RESTRICTIONS

- a. Absolutely no strapless, low cut, plunging neckline or back, revealing neckline or back style gowns, or any suggestive designs not keeping with the high moral standards of the competition are allowed.
- b. Candidate is required to wear proper foundation and undergarments at ALL times.
- c. Candidate is prohibited from wearing sports shoes for ALL phases of competition EXCLUDING STAGE ARTS.
- d. Competition director reserves the right to final discretion in conjunction with the Candidate's wardrobe for ALL phases of competition.

2. STAGE ARTS COMPETITION WARDROBE RESTRICTIONS

- a. Candidate must select a costume for his/her Stage Arts presentation, which is comfortable and appropriate for the skills and abilities to be demonstrated on stage, yet in keeping with the high moral standards of Youth Focus Inc.
- b. Candidate is prohibited from wearing a revealing or otherwise suggestive costume, as well as any of the following:
 - i. French cut leotard
 - ii. Strapless and/or plunging neckline
 - iii. Any other leotard with a high cut, which does not sufficiently cover the back leg
 - iv. Costume, which reveals candidate's naval
 - v. Sagging or baggy pants which reveal undergarments

- c. Candidate, who chooses to wear a basic leotard costume for his/her Stage Arts presentation must have some sort of skirting. The skirting can be of any material and must completely cover the back leg area. Leotards with partial skirting are allowed upon prior approval of the competition director.

3. PRODUCTION NUMBER WARDROBE RESTRICTIONS

- a. Female Candidate is to provide a knee length party dress (of any color). Absolutely no mini length dresses.
- b. Male Candidate is to provide dress slacks and a long-sleeved, collared dress shirt.

4. PERSONALITY INTERVIEW COMPETITION WARDROBE RESTRICTIONS

- a. Female Candidates must wear a business suit, pant suit, or afternoon dress with appropriate shoes.
- b. Male Candidates must wear casual khaki or Dockers style pants with a polo shirt.

5. ON STAGE PERSONALITY COMPETITION & CROWNING WARDROBE RESTRICTIONS

- a. Female Candidates must wear a floor length gown. Candidate may wear a different gown for crowning, or may choose to wear the same gown for both portions of the competition show.
- b. Male Candidates must wear a nice suit or slacks and sport jacket.

6. EXTEMPORANEOUS SPEECH COMPETITION

- a. Female Candidate is to provide a knee length party dress (of any color). Absolutely no mini length dresses.
- b. Male Candidates must wear khaki or Dockers style pants and polo shirt.

G. COMPETITION ACTIVITIES

1. Candidate agrees to participate in all areas of Competition and in all events leading up to the final selection of California State's Teen Ambassador/Ambassadress 2017. Participation in the California State Teen Accolades Ambassador's Competition shall be understood to include all public appearances, telecasts, radio broadcasts, and video of all or any part of the events connected with the Competition, and Candidate authorizes the California State Teen Accolades Ambassador's Competition and anyone duly licensed and authorized by it to televise, broadcast, and take pictures of said Candidate individually and/or in a group.
2. Candidate and parent understand that friends and family members will not be permitted to attend any activities related to the competition except those designated as open to the public. Public activities include the following:

a. Tribute Dinner Honoring 2016 All-Star Captains

Friday, November 10, 2017 - 6:30 p.m.
Cost \$25.00 per person*
Tickets can be purchased at the door or online: www.youthfocusinc.org

b. Junior and Teen Ambassadors Competition

Saturday, November 11, 2017 - 7:00 p.m.
Cost \$15.00 per ticket*
Tickets can be purchased at the door or online: www.youthfocusinc.org

3. *Cost for events listed above is not applicable to Candidates.
4. Candidate and Parent(s) understand and recognize the risks of physical injury inherent in dance and dance performance and willingly assume responsibility for those conditions of participation at their own risk. It is agreed and understood that participants will not hold Youth Focus Inc., its agents, directors, officers, employees or the Competition Officials, liable for injuries sustained or illnesses contracted by them when in attendance and or participating in any phase of the competition.

H. AUDITORIUM RESTRICTIONS

1. In consideration of the Candidates on stage and at the judges' request, Youth Focus Inc. reserves the right to expel ANY audience member(s) in violation of the following photography and video restrictions:
 - a. No flash or light photography equipment may be used during the competition.
 - b. The only photographs permitted during the competition are those, which can be taken from the back of the auditorium without a flash or light fixture.
 - c. Videotaping is strictly prohibited. Order forms for the purchase of digital video recordings of the show will be available prior to and during the competition.
2. Members of the general public are prohibited from approaching the front of the stage or aisles during the competition show.
3. Members of the general public are prohibited from entering the back stage area or other rooms not expressly open to the general public at anytime before or during the competition show.
4. Members of the general public are prohibited from speaking with the judges either individually or as a group at any time, before, during or after the competition show.
5. Members of the general public, including family and friends, are restricted from entering the auditorium or other facility during any rehearsal or workshop without explicit permission of the competition director.

I. LOST OR STOLEN ARTICLES

Youth Focus Inc. will not be held responsible for any lost or stolen articles during any activities associated with the competition, including but not limited to rehearsals, orientations, dress rehearsals, and the competition show.

J. SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS

1. Candidate and parent agree to abide by and be bound by the rules and regulations governing the finals of the California State Teen Accolades Ambassador's Competition and the awarding and supervision of the title, scholarships and other prizes.
2. Candidate agrees that if selected as California State's Teen Ambassador/Ambassadress 2017 they must remain a resident of the State of California for a period of one year following the concluding date of the 2017 competition.
3. Candidate agrees that if selected as California State's Teen Ambassador/Ambassadress 2017, they must participate in the 2018 California State Teen Accolades Ambassador's Competition at a time and date selected by the Board of Directors of Youth Focus Inc., serving as its Goodwill Ambassador for the competition.

4. Candidate agrees that if selected as California State's Teen Ambassador/Ambassadress 2017, that they will accept the Traveling Companion/Chaperone designated by Youth Focus Inc., to accompany them on all required appearances and they will be guided and bound by his/her suggestions and guidance in all matters pertaining to my appearances, without any interference from my parents, guardians, or any other persons whatsoever.
5. In the event that the Candidate has failed or shall thereafter fail to carry out and perform all the conditions, rules and regulations governing the conduct of the California State Teen Accolades Ambassador's Competition, then, at the option of the Board of Directors of Youth Focus Inc., the Candidate shall forfeit the right to the title of California State's Teen Ambassador/Ambassadress 2017, or other titles and all awards, scholarships, grants, and rights pertaining thereto, and Candidate understands that Youth Focus Inc., will then have the right to name a new California State's Teen Ambassador/Ambassadress 2017, and to grant to her/him the various awards, scholarships and prizes which accompany the title.
6. If, as an alternate/runner-up, the Candidate shall succeed to the title of California State's Teen Ambassador/Ambassadress 2017 (as provided for in Section J.5 or for any other reason), then and in such an event the Candidate agrees to be bound by all of the provisions of this agreement, which relate to California State's Teen Ambassador/Ambassadress.
7. It is understood and agreed that each educational or talent scholarship is awarded upon the condition that such scholarship must, upon penalty of forfeiture of yet unused funds at the time of forfeiture, begin being used as stipulated herein:
 - a. California State's Teen Ambassador/Ambassadress 2017 may not use their scholarship awards until the completion of their year of service.
 - b. Scholarships are awarded in accordance with rules and regulations of the scholarship awards program. Candidate and parents acknowledge that they must comply with said terms and conditions in order for Candidate to be a recipient of any or all awards.
8. Scholarship awards will not be disbursed in cash. There are no exceptions.
9. Any canceled or unused portion of awards money will revert back to Youth Focus Inc.
10. Candidate agrees that if selected as California State's Teen Ambassador/Ambassadress 2017, any and all monetary considerations relating to their activities as California State's Teen Ambassador/Ambassadress 2017 will accrue to the Youth Focus Inc., handled by Youth Focus Inc., on their behalf.

K. MEDIA RELEASE

1. Candidate agrees that they have not heretofore authorized any person, firm, or corporation to use their name, photograph, picture, present or future title in connection with an endorsement, advertisement or any commercial product; and that they are not under contract to any person, firm, or corporation with respect to their present title, nor have they made any legal obligations that would prevent their participation and appearance in the California State Teen Accolades Ambassador's Competition or compliance with the terms and conditions of this agreement.
2. Candidate agrees that if selected as California State's Teen Ambassador/Ambassadress 2017, they will permit their name, photographs, video, endorsement rights, and their title as California State's Teen Ambassador/Ambassadress 2017, or any other such title selected for them, to be used by said prominent firms or corporations as may be approved and authorized by Youth Focus Inc.
3. Candidate agrees that if selected as California State's Teen Ambassador/Ambassadress 2017, to constitute and appoint Youth Focus Inc., as the sole and exclusive organization and sponsor to assist them on their behalf for the mailing of all press releases, statements to the press, contracts, engagements, theatrical employment, artistic or commercial employment for the term of one year from November 11, 2017.
4. If Candidate is not selected California State's Teen Ambassador/Ambassadress 2017, but is the recipient of one of the scholarships, grants, or awards, they will permit their name, photographs, video, endorsement rights and their title, or such title as may be selected for them, to be used by said scholarship sponsor and advertisers authorized and approved by Youth Focus Inc., and will not give any printed, written, photographic, televised, radio, or other endorsement for any product competitive to the products manufactured, processed, or sold by the Scholarship sponsors or advertisers authorized and approved by Youth Focus Inc.
5. All photographs made of the Candidate or award recipient in the 2017 California State Teen Accolades Ambassador's Competition, either individually or as a member of a group in connection with the 2017 California State Teen Accolades Ambassador's Competition, shall be and become the property of Youth Focus Inc., and the same may be used by it or anyone designated by it, for publicity, advertising and other proper use.

L. OFFICIAL APPLICATION AND PARTICIPATION RELEASE

Permission is hereby given to Youth Focus Inc. to utilize the information contained in the Official Application Form in any way it deems appropriate without recourse from heirs, my immediate family, or me. I hereby release Youth Focus Inc., its directors, agents, and employees from claims of any kind or nature arising out of damages of persons or property occasioned by, or in connection with any portion of my participation in the California State Youth Accolades Scholarship Competition and its related events.

M. MEDICAL RELEASE

Please list any medical concerns, which may adversely affect the Candidate's participation. Please list any medications that may need to be administered during activities associated with Youth Focus Inc., and the California State Youth Accolades Scholarship Competition (asthma inhaler, for example). Please include any over-the-counter medication such as Tylenol or ibuprofen as Youth Focus Inc., the California State Youth Accolades Scholarship Competition, its directors, and volunteers are prohibited from dispensing any form of medication without prior written consent of the parent or guardian. Any information provided here is strictly for the comfort of the Candidate and completely confidential. Any information contained here will not be released to the general public or competition judges.