

## DEFEAT OF JESSE JAMES DAYS AMBASSADOR SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

### Frequently Asked Questions:

#### **How do I become a Defeat of Jesse James Days Ambassador candidate?**

The official Defeat of Jesse James Days Ambassador candidate application will be available online in May. The Ambassador Committee hosts three informational candidate meetings in May/June that can help answer your questions. Parents are also welcome to attend these meetings. Please refer to the Candidate Checklist to help you organize what you will need

#### **Who is eligible to run?**

The candidate must be 16 years of age by July 1<sup>st</sup> of the current year through age 21 AND either lives, works, frequently volunteers OR worships in the Northfield School District #659.

#### **Can I be a candidate a 2<sup>nd</sup> time?**

YES! Candidates who are not selected as Ambassadors are eligible to be candidates again as long as the candidate still meets the age and other criteria listed above. We have had past candidates that have run a 3<sup>rd</sup> time as it's so much fun!

#### **What if I'm not sure I want to be an Ambassador? Can I still be a candidate?**

YES! We welcome all to participate in the Candidate Experience. You have right to opt out of becoming selected as an Ambassador if you so choose. This can be handled confidentially with the panel of judges as well.

#### **Must I provide my own sponsor?**

Candidates are encouraged to find their own sponsor, but the committee will assist if needed. The cost of the sponsorship is \$300. The sponsoring business will receive publicity proceeding and during DJJD.

#### **What is the Selection Team looking for?**

Selection is based on overall impression including poise, communication skills, community and school involvement, sincerity and a warm, friendly personality. We are looking for a strong team of representatives for our historic celebration and city.

A panel of independent individuals from outside the Northfield area is selected to choose a team of three Ambassadors who they feel would be the right fit for the Ambassador role. Their decision is strictly of their own choosing, with no influence from the Ambassador Committee. The only information they receive from the Ambassador Committee would be attendance (tardiness, unexcused absences, etc.) Their selection is based on information provided in the candidate applications, and as witnessed during all judged events.

#### **Does this program have a talent or swimsuit competition?**

NO! Our program does not have a talent or swimsuit competition. The Defeat of Jesse James Days Ambassador Program is NOT a beauty contest, it is a scholarship program.

#### **Can a candidate be married? Have children?**

This program is open to candidates who have never been married not have had a marriage annulled. Upon accepting the title, the candidate agrees that they will not marry or become pregnant during their reign. The candidate may not be pregnant or have children.

#### **Can I still be a candidate if I received a ticket for under-age drinking or for some other offense?**

As long as the offense occurred prior to you becoming a Defeat of Jesse James Days Ambassador Candidate and prior to signing our contract, you may still participate in the program. You have a "clean slate" when you become a candidate for our program. Keep in mind though that if any infraction of the Law or rules of the Defeat of Jesse James Days Ambassador program occurs after you become a candidate, there will be consequences that could include dismissal.

**Will I be disqualified if I miss a scheduled candidate event?**

No. We do make exceptions for missed appearances for legitimate reasons, as long as we know in advance. Keep in mind if you miss an event, you may be missing a valuable opportunity to learn new skills or meet new people.

**Can I be a candidate if I have tattoo(s) or multiple piercings?**

A candidate must not have any visible tattoos or must be able to cover them. Piercing should be limited to minimal pierced ears.

**If I am selected as one of the three DJJD Ambassadors, how much time is required?**

A Defeat of Jesse James Days Ambassador's term is for one year. Most of the appearances are at parades and coronations during the weekends and summer months. You will also be scheduled at numerous community events. You would be required to attend 90% of scheduled events. Our past ambassadors have been able to hold summer jobs while serving as ambassadors. We provide schedules at least 60 days ahead but sometimes last-minute appearances come up which are not counted in the 90%.

**Should I postpone starting college if I am selected as an Ambassador?**

NO! Ambassadors are not required to postpone educational pursuits during their year-long reign. It is best suited if ambassadors work with the assigned chaperone on conflicts with as much advance notice as possible. The ambassador should be diligent in managing personal and appearance schedules with the chaperone.

**Can I still be an Ambassador if I am going away to college?**

YES! The majority of the appearances are scheduled during the summer months, and we work around college schedules during the year. Because we are a scholarship program, education is a top priority. The DJJD Ambassador Committee works with ambassadors to schedule appearances around school schedules.

**What do I receive if I am selected as an Ambassador?**

Serving as an Ambassador is a very distinct and rewarding experience. There will be many networking opportunities and memories that will last a lifetime. You will receive a \$2,000 scholarship upon satisfactory completion of your reign. The Ambassador Committee will work with you on the wardrobe depending on budgets but you will receive a wardrobe that will include an evening gown, parade wardrobe, polo shirt, outer jacket, sash, name tag, tiara /hat & jewelry. You will be given the use of a cape that is returned at the end of your reign. Typically, you will pay for jeans, belts and all footwear.

**How will my family be involved if I am selected as an Ambassador?**

Parents and family are asked to be your support system during your year! The DJJD Program has volunteer chaperones who will provide transportation as well as guidance and direction in making proper appearances. At the end of your reign, we ask the parents/family to host the Reception(s) on the Sunday of DJJD. The funds are provided by the DJJD Committee and a volunteer will coordinate with your family the planning.