

## Seeds of Stewardship Ambassador Program – Southern Arizona



### Overview

The goal of the Arizona Trail Association's Ambassador Program is to provide mentorship opportunities for young adults. This program will enhance individual's outdoor leadership capabilities, empowering a greater number of public land stewards and environmental advocates. Ambassadors will learn from professional **Outdoor Educators** and **Environmental Educators** to develop the skills necessary to become **OEs & EEs** themselves. In doing this, Ambassadors will learn the basics of Sonoran Desert natural sciences and human/cultural histories. Ambassadors will work virtually and in person distantly to develop these skills. Ambassadors will design and create a community action project which will serve to provide information and solutions toward an environmental issue. This program will serve to prepare Ambassadors to be leaders, public speakers, engaged in environmental and social issues, and educated place-based conservation advocates.

Ambassadors will:

- Hike and adventure through wild places close to home
- Learn about Sonoran Desert ecology, human pre/histories, and natural history
- Learn how to lead adventures, navigate outdoors, and deal with emergencies
- Learn methods and techniques needed to be an outdoor educator
- Develop public speaking skills
- Create a community action project based on their interests
- Learn how to build and repair trails using specialized tools and equipment
- Build personal relationships and comfort in the outdoors

### How will this work?

The SOS Ambassador Program will be conducted through two methods. The purpose and details are listed below.

#### 1. Field Expeditions

Twice per month Ambassadors will meet at various trailheads and spend 6-8 hours in natural landscapes hiking, learning, and developing personal outdoor skills. Field expeditions exist to provide Ambassadors time to learn through experience and practice. Skills and topics of practice will include:

- Natural Sciences of the Sonoran Desert (Ecology, Natural Histories, Biology)
- Human Histories/Pre Histories and Human Cultures of the Southwest
- Recording field and activity notes
- Outdoor education methodologies
- Outdoor survival strategies
- Developing personal outdoor learning strategies
- Leading groups outdoors

- Designing lessons and teaching these lessons to groups outdoors
- Trail tool training and trail sustainability strategies
- Personal Project conclusions

Covid 19- Epidemic Protocol will be fully enforced during field expeditions. No more than 8 Ambassadors will be in a group during field expeditions at a time. See page 3 for more details on Covid protocols.

**2. Zoom Conference Calls**

Twice per month Ambassadors will meet virtually for approximately 1.5 hours. Zoom meetings exist to provide Ambassadors time to:

- Ask and answer questions
- Review lessons and activities from field expeditions
- Gain preparatory information for future events
- Collaborate in groups
- Develop lessons and projects with more attention from peers and mentors

**This Table is an example of alternating meetings per month**

<b>Sunday</b>  Zoom Meeting	<b>Sunday</b>  Outdoor Expedition	<b>Sunday</b>  Zoom Meeting	<b>Sunday</b>  Outdoor Expedition
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**Basic Monthly Curriculum & Structure**

**Month 1 & 2 will include**

- Program overview/goal setting
- AZT history
- Sonoran Desert natural sciences
- Human Histories & Cultures of the Sonoran Desert
- OE & EE methodologies
- Lesson strategies/structures

**Month 3 & 4 will include**

- Sonoran Desert natural sciences
- Human Histories & Cultures of the Sonoran Desert
- Ambassador lesson refinements
- Goal progressions
- Personal projects
- Survival & Navigation

### Month 5 & 6 will include

- Ambassador led lessons
- Ecology/History review & summary
- Personal Project Completion
- Final Ambassador led lessons
- Stewardship Work

## **Achievements & Accomplishments**

### What will Ambassadors get from this?

Ambassadors will receive an Arizona Trail Association Certification for Leadership and Environmental Advocacy. Ambassadors will have their bios and photos, personal projects, and all lessons created and taught, added to the Arizona Trail Associations website for international recognition. Ambassadors will be forever recognized as Arizona Trail Ambassadors. The training and certifications awarded will provide Ambassadors with greater employment opportunities. This will include priority toward volunteer opportunities, internships, employment, and leadership positions with the Arizona Trail Association.

## **Covid-19 Safety Protocol and Strategies**

The Arizona Trail Association's Seeds of Stewardship (SOS) is implementing strict Covid-19 epidemic protocols. Detailed information about the virus, our safety strategies, and more can be found by clicking on, or entering the link below into your browser.

[https://aztrail.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/ATA\\_COVID-Field\\_Safety.pdf](https://aztrail.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/ATA_COVID-Field_Safety.pdf)

In addition to participant requirements stated in the ATA Epidemic Protocol, SOS Ambassadors will be required to:

- Maintain 6+ feet of distance from any person at all times
- Wear a mask at all times\* (provided by SOS)
- Wear gloves (provided by SOS)
- Possess and utilize disinfectants (provided by SOS)
- Refrain from sharing any gear, supplies, and food

\*Masks are required at all times unless:

1. The participant is requiring emergency first aid medical treatment that constitutes the temporary removal of their mask
2. The participant is eating food or drinking water.