

**24th Annual South Dakota**

# AMBASSADORS OF EXCELLENCE PROGRAM

## Application Form

Return this application with your \$45 nonrefundable application fee by June 15 to:

Dr. Trudi Nelson, School of Education  
University of South Dakota, 414 East Clark Street,  
Vermillion, SD 57069-2390

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Gender  Male  Female

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian \_\_\_\_\_ Adult t-shirt size  XS  S  M  L  XL  XXL

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail (please include) \_\_\_\_\_

School \_\_\_\_\_ Grade entering \_\_\_\_\_

Does your school have a gifted program?  Yes  No Are you a  New Camper  Returning Camper

My \$45 non-refundable application fee is enclosed. Make checks or money orders payable to the University of South Dakota.



UNIVERSITY OF  
SOUTH DAKOTA

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION  
414 East Clark Street,  
Vermillion, SD 57069-2390

If you are a person with a disability and need a special accommodation to fully participate, please contact Disability Services at 605-677-6389 48 hours before the event.

# 24th Annual South Dakota AMBASSADORS OF EXCELLENCE PROGRAM

July 16–July 27, 2012



*If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader.*

—John Quincy Adams



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# 24th Annual South Dakota AMBASSADORS OF EXCELLENCE PROGRAM

July 16–July 27, 2012

Heath Weber, Director  
Dr. Trudi Nelson, Director of Gifted Programs  
Dr. Bruce Milne and Dr. Carole Kasen, Founders

*The mission of the South Dakota Ambassadors of Excellence Program is to provide an optimum learning experience for South Dakota's gifted high schoolers in a safe and supportive environment, emphasizing service, leadership, and artistic development.*

The program is sponsored by the School of Education of the University of South Dakota and has been sponsored by the South Dakota Department of Education, endorsed by the Governor of South Dakota.

The Ambassadors of Excellence Program is designed for selected former South Dakota Governor's Camp participants and other high school students who exhibit outstanding talent and leadership potential.

## PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

### Food and Dormitory Lodging

Ambassadors will be lodged in the dormitory complex on the USD campus.

### Team-Building Activities

Ambassadors will engage in team activities designed to build friendships, awareness and respect for individual differences, and leadership.

### Educational Options

This year's ambassadors will have the option to choose classes in single-session experiences in a variety of fields or the focused classes that meet in multiple sessions over three days.

### Evening Elective Activities

Examples: reading groups, chess and board games, open mic performance, outdoor recreation and sports, musical

jam, drama improvisation, art room, ethics discussion/debate and "Ambassadors Night Live."

### Service to Governor's Camp

Ambassadors work with students in the South Dakota Governor's Camp, serving as senior counselors, activity coordinators and mentors. Ambassadors help with the design and function of evening elective activities, performances and team-building competitions.

### Twenty-Fourth Annual South Dakota Ambassadors of Excellence Performance

As is the long tradition, the South Dakota Ambassadors of Excellence will perform in the Wayne S. Knudson Theatre, Warren M. Lee Center for the Fine Arts, Thursday, July 26, at 7 p.m. Parents, relatives and friends are encouraged to attend this free performance.

## ELIGIBILITY & SELECTION

An ambassador must be a high-ability student entering the 10th, 11th, or 12th grade in fall of 2012 with a record of:

- demonstrated talent
- leadership
- active participation in school and community activities
- high academic success

Former South Dakota Governor's Camp participants and former ambassadors are encouraged to apply. Ambassadors will be role models of excellence for students at the South Dakota Governor's Camp. The acceptance or rejection decision by the director of the South Dakota Center for Education of the Gifted is final.



## APPLICATION & REGISTRATION

Cost to the student is \$595. The application form and \$45 application fee (non-refundable if the student is selected for attendance) for the Ambassadors of Excellence Program must be received by June 15, 2012.

Students selected will be notified as soon as possible and final registration forms with classes and preliminary activity opportunities will be mailed to them.

### Early application is advised.

The remaining \$550 is to be paid prior to or upon arrival at USD on Monday, July 16. This cost will cover housing, food, insurance, recreation and instructional materials. Transportation is not included.

The formal opening of the program will begin at 3 p.m. July 16 in the Warren M. Lee Center for the Fine Arts. Closing of both camps will be on Friday, July 27, at 3 p.m.

Ambassadors are expected to abide by a very strict honor code. Adult supervision will be provided by the Center staff.

Send application forms to:

Dr. Trudi Nelson  
School of Education, University of South Dakota  
414 East Clark Street, Vermillion, SD 57069-2390

### Questions?

Phone: 605-677-6488 for Governors Camp or  
Email: [trudi.nelson@usd.edu](mailto:trudi.nelson@usd.edu) (677-6307)

[www.usd.edu/ed/ci/gifted](http://www.usd.edu/ed/ci/gifted)