

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### 1. What is the connection between the non-profit organization People to People International and the for-profit organization Ambassador Programs?

*On September 11, 1956, president Dwight D. Eisenhower announced at a White House conference the creation of the People to People movement. People to People International (PTPI,) a private, non-profit organization, was incorporated five years later in 1961. People to People International oversees many programs including the People to People Ambassador Programs, which are educational travel programs designed to allow everyday citizens of different countries to meet and interact.*

*For over 40 years, People to People International has selected Ambassador Programs, Inc. as its exclusive partner to develop and operate programs that fulfill the “people to people” mission of People to People International. Ambassador Programs, Inc. provides all aspects and delivery to support the Student Ambassador Programs, Citizen Ambassador Programs, Sports Ambassador Programs, and Leadership Programs.*

### 2. What is the relationship between Ambassador Programs, Inc. and Ambassadors Group (EPAX)?

*Ambassadors Group is a socially conscious, education company which has been listed on Forbes 200 top Small Businesses for the past three years. It is the parent company of Ambassador Programs, Inc. and of Book Rags, an educational research website.*

### 3. What is Ambassador Programs, Inc.’s solicitation and acceptance process for program participants?

#### ***Student and Sports Ambassador Programs:***

*Students are invited to participate in the Student or Sports Ambassador Program in one of three ways:*

- 1. Through teacher or educator recommendation*
- 2. Through parent, alumni, or self recommendation*
- 3. From national academic and athletic mailing lists*

*Our goal is to invite as many students to participate in the program as possible. Each applicant must submit three letters of recommendation and complete a personal interview with local teachers and program chaperones in order to be accepted on the program. Approximately half of the students who participated in these programs in 2007 were directly nominated, were past travelers, or had requested information about our programs personally.*

#### ***Leadership Programs:***

*The majority of students who participate in the Leadership Programs are directly nominated to the program by teachers and educators both in the U.S. and abroad. Invitation letters mention the name*

*of the nominating teacher when possible. We have had students from more than 100 countries come to the United States as part of the Leadership Program.*

**Citizen Ambassador Program:**

*Adult professionals, including doctors, lawyers, and educators are invited to participate in these programs through their membership in various professional organizations, i.e. American Bar Association.*

**4. How are leaders chosen?**

*Chaperones (leaders) for all youth programs are selected through an application process that includes three letters of recommendation, a personal interview, and a background check. More than half of the teachers who serve as chaperones return to travel the following year. Teachers must apply and be accepted annually. Returning teachers are evaluated on their prior performance by parents, students, and the remaining leaders in the delegation. These evaluations are used to determine suitability for future placements as a chaperone on the program. Program staff members and People to People associates may also provide evaluation and feedback regarding leader performance. In addition, parents have the opportunity to personally interact with their children's chaperones prior to travel through the interview and orientation process.*

**5. What are the provisions for the safety and supervision of children while on programs?**

*Safety of students and teachers is our highest priority. Prior to departure, students complete an online travel safety lesson. Children on our Student and Sports Ambassador programs also complete 12 hours of orientation prior to departure. During these orientation meetings, there are several lessons on travel safety.*

*Part of our application process includes indicating any health, medical, or mobility issues that may require special care during the program. Should a student have a special need, a strict protocol is followed which includes obtaining a letter of clearance from the family physician and approval of the chaperones for that student to participate. In addition, we also require that students be responsible for their recurring medical treatments without supervision, and all medications, injections, or other treatments must be monitored and administered by the student. As part of our special needs protocol, we provide the student's physician with a Physician's Authorization Form, where the treating physician is also required to attest that the student is able to administer all medication and treatments without assistance or reminders. Furthermore, we provide the treating physician with specific information about the program that the student will be participating in including, but not limited to, the program activities, climate and terrain conditions, and generally the number of miles the student may have to walk per day. The student's treating physician must attest that the student is medically fit to participate in the program given those general program guidelines.*

*In 2007, we had more than 3,300 students with special medical needs travel on our programs. In limited cases, we have had an adult medical aide travel on the program to ensure the safety of a child.*

*Our focus on communication exchange, learning and training, evaluating and implementing new ideas forms a 360-degree approach to safety. We partner with [docleaf](http://docleaf.com)®, a London-based international safety and security company, to develop standards for all our programs. We have a 24-hour team dedicated to family response during the travel season and have developed comprehensive safety response plans. We conduct readiness simulations to ensure that all associates are prepared for any emergency situation. We constantly evaluate and improve our standard procedures with information gathered from forums like the International Educators' Conference on Safety.*

*At the International Educators' Conference on Safety, our speakers and attendees are top notch educators, program leaders, and professionals who represent the cutting edge of travel, health, and safety. Our interaction with these attendees allows us to develop new practices for delegate safety, implement new policies and procedures, and refine methods for our teacher leaders to communicate and deliver our safety standards to our delegates and their families.*

*Our chaperones are a key component to our safety standards. We train more than 5,000 volunteer teachers each year. This training includes completion of online training modules as well as in-person training provided by experienced program chaperones. Teachers are also provided travel handbooks that provide detailed instructions on what to do in case of illness, injury, or other emergency. Teachers are provided a dedicated phone line to the program office that is available 24/7.*

*The student- to-teacher ratio on average is 10:1. Students are continually accounted for during the program with a count-off system.*

## **6. What is People to People Ambassador Programs' relationship with the Department of State?**

*The Department of State regularly makes recommendations for Americans traveling abroad. We utilize these recommendations as one component in overall assessment of travel safety. In addition, if a U.S. citizen is involved in an incident overseas, the U.S. State Department may become involved and as such, we will cooperate with them completely.*

## **7. What is the status of children as delegates and representatives of the United States?**

*Participants in our program represent their community, country, and families just as any United States citizen does when traveling abroad. Participants in People to People programs have the opportunity to represent themselves in unique "People to People" moments: i.e. meeting with a Member of Parliament, a home stay with a family in China, overnight stay on a working farm in Australia, or visiting hospitals in South Africa.*

*These unique experiences are what set the People to People program apart from any other educational travel opportunity, including private travel. In true People to People fashion, we are*

*bringing regular citizens from different countries together in an effort to create a more peaceful world.*