



WHAT IS THE

Tobacco-Free Youth Ambassador Program

The Tobacco-Free Youth Ambassador Program is a statewide movement of youth, ages 12-21, who are committed to advocating, educating, mobilizing, and preventing tobacco and nicotine use in Rhode Island.



Tobacco-Free Youth Ambassador Roles

Youth Ambassador

Youth Ambassadors are the heart of the program. They are able to engage in workshops, training, and other opportunities throughout the year that will better their understanding of tobacco and nicotine, and all its related topics. Ambassadors may have opportunities to participate in national, state, and local events. Lastly, the Ambassador Program puts both learning and fun equally at the forefront of everything we do. Tobacco-Free Rhode Island hopes each ambassador spends a year not only learning about tobacco and nicotine, but about their state, peers, and themselves.

Shadow Ambassador

The Tobacco-Free Youth Ambassador Program typically launches in the fall, just in time for the start of the school year. However, anytime of the year a youth expresses a passion for tobacco prevention and control initiatives, we will always make a place for them. The Shadow Ambassador role is designed for youth who would like to participate with TFRI and engage with our partners after the program's initial start period. This means however, they would not receive all the “gets” of an official ambassador. Participation is always welcome at all meetings, events, and opportunities. We hope this role opens a door for youth who wish to get involved in statewide tobacco control efforts, and provides an opportunity to further their leadership skills.

Mentor Ambassador

The role of the Mentor Ambassador is an option for those who have already been an ambassador, but do not, or cannot, fully commit to ambassador role. Mentor Ambassadors will still be contacted as larger events, trainings, and other opportunities arise, rather than being contacted for everything. Mentors are also expected to share their expertise with current ambassadors. We hope this allows everyone who may not have the ability to fully participate in the Ambassador Program, to continue to make an impact in the tobacco-free movement.

[*Click here to apply for one of these roles!*](#)

Gives & Gets

Gives

Ambassadors are expected to give their time and efforts by:

- attending and participating in meetings as regularly as possible
 - engaging in tasks, activities, and events revolving around tobacco prevention, education, and promotion of quit resources
 - providing input, ideas, and perspectives when planning and engaging in programming- ie: use your voice to create change
 - continuously spreading awareness and making connections with other youth across the state which can help build the tobacco-free movement
 - being a leader that others can look up to and follow
 - always promoting inclusion, being open to learn and work with people from different communities, cultures, and backgrounds while keeping an open mind
 - putting judgments aside, listening and learning from other's point of view
-

Gets

TFRI always tries to compensate our ambassadors for their time, effort, expertise; the more you participate the more you receive. This can vary each year due to funding. Ambassadors may receive:

- gift cards/checks/stipends
- branded merch (sweatpants, sweatshirts, t-shirts, hats, socks, etc.)
- community service hours
- Youth to Youth Summer Conference
- the ability to list TFRI on resumes, as a reference, and can ask for letters of recommendation

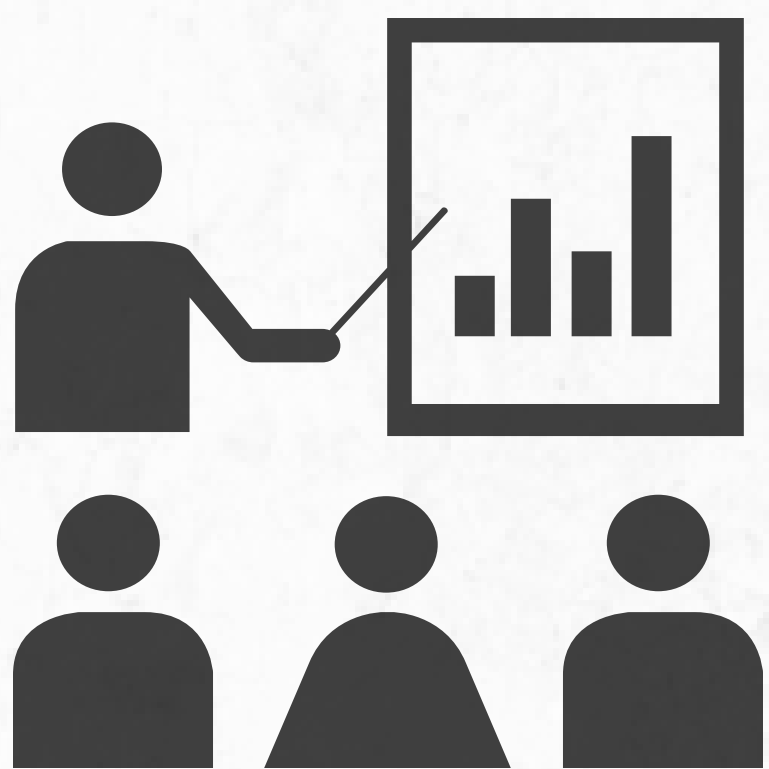
In addition to compensation, ambassadors who are consistently involved in the program will have the opportunity to:

- make an impact in their community, state, and nation by reducing tobacco and nicotine use rates
- gain leadership skills, knowledge, connections, and more, to use in their personal, professional, and educational lives
- meet youth from across the state who are passionate about youth leadership
- make long-lasting relationships and memories with fellow ambassadors and program staff

Overall Goals Each Year



Recruit/maintain youth leaders from communities across Rhode Island.



Host youth trainings that focuses on skill building & increasing education on the latest trends in tobacco and nicotine.



Engage youth in local, state, and national tobacco & nicotine control opportunities.



Mobilize youth to be a part of education, advocacy, and policy efforts.



Encourage youth participation in TFRI workgroups and Steering Committee.

Words of Wisdom

"Be as authentic as possible and don't be afraid to be confident. People want to hear your story and why you care. You may face some backlash, but the people who matter most will support you and want to hear what you have to say."

-Kennedy Chartier, Woonsocket, ambassador from 2019-2020

"As the face of such a prestigious organization, take pride in what you do and engage the community. TFRl introduces you to a different aspect of life, especially advocacy. So use your voice and make us proud."

-Armina Parvaresh Rizi, Lincoln, ambassador from 2020-2021

"Don't be afraid to try something new; when I first started, I didn't know much about the world of intervention and advocacy, but now I can't imagine a world without it!"

-Emily Jedson, West Greenwich, ambassador from 2019-2021

"To the new ambassadors, remember that you can do anything you set your mind to and believe in!"

-Janisia Lopes, Pawtucket, ambassador from 2019-2020

Leadership



Zoe Moreau (she/her)

*TFRl Community Engagement
Specialist since 2018*



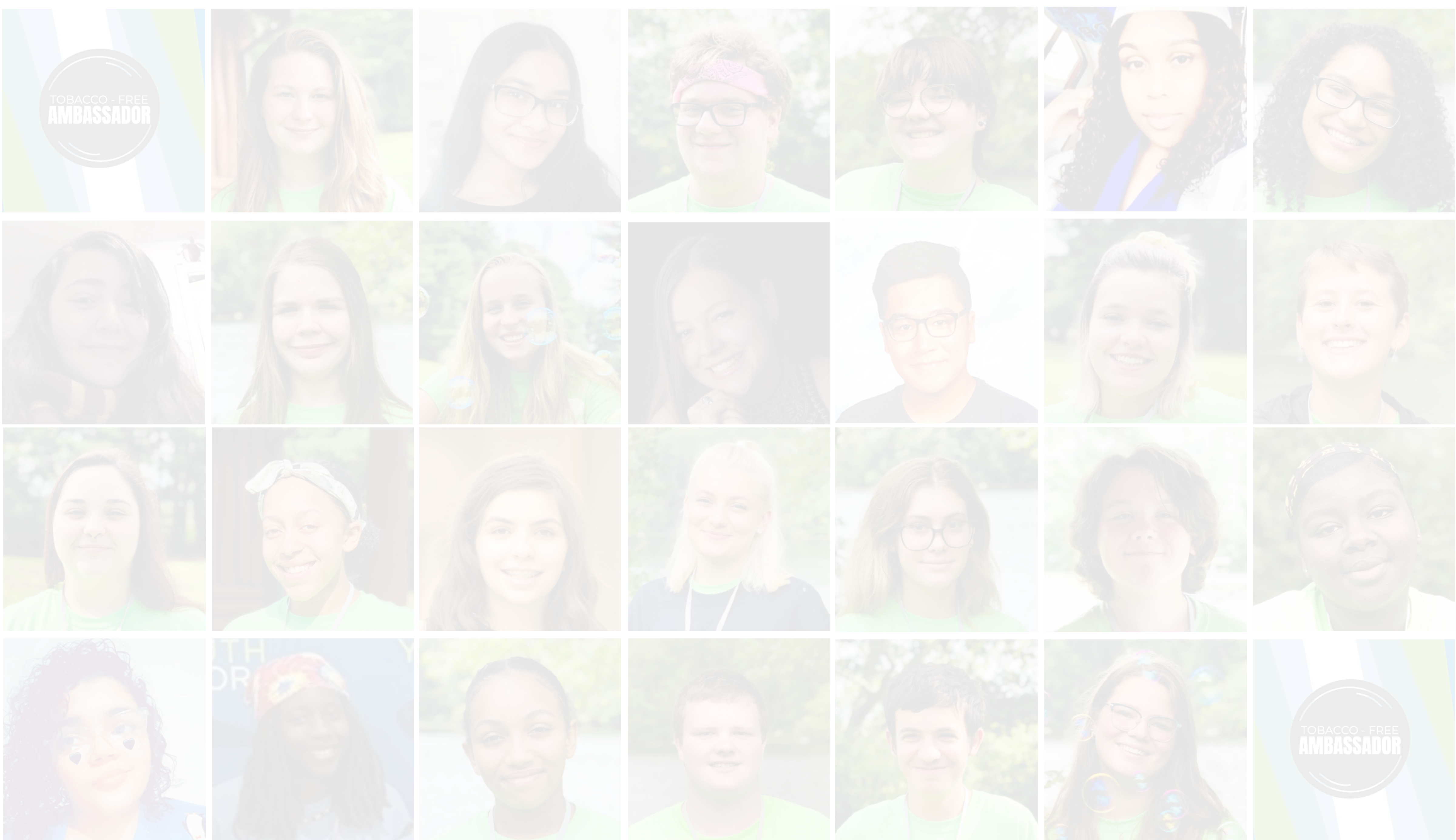
Jen Wall (she/her)

*TFRl Director since 2020
ALA Employee since 2015*

TOBACCO
FREE RHODE
ISLAND

 American Lung Association®

Tobacco-Free Youth Ambassador Program



Tobacco Free Rhode Island
C/O: American Lung Association in RI
260 West Exchange Street, Suite 102B
Providence, RI 02903

*For more information about the
Tobacco-Free Ambassadors Program, please
contact Zoe.Moreau@lung.org or call 401-533-5179*