

2018 Election Ambassador Corps

The Committee of Seventy has organized a nonpartisan volunteer-powered program to inform voters and improve elections since 1905. Today, Seventy coordinates an **Election Ambassador Corps** of high school students who can help answer voters' questions on Election Day and learn about the voting experience.

The program was launched in 2015 because the rate at which young people participate in elections continues to be deeply troubling. According to CIRCLE, a youth civic-engagement center, **only a fifth of young people (ages 18 to 29) cast ballots in the 2014 midterm elections** – the lowest ever recorded. Studies suggest voting is similar to any other habit, and early engagement can help ensure long-term behavior. This is why we recruit students to serve as Ambassadors, deploying them to local polling sites to observe and help improve the voting process – an early experience bolstering the likelihood that they become super voters with a long civic career in front of them.

Program Overview

In small teams with their classmates, students will visit polling sites at or nearby their schools or in their home neighborhoods. Program presentations by Seventy staff in class or after school cover why voting matters, the upcoming election and the role of Election Ambassadors.

As Ambassadors, students will be prepared to:

- 1) **Administer an exit survey** to gather data and spur conversation between students and voters leaving their polling site (e.g., voting behavior, trust in government, reform proposals).
- 2) **Collect “sample ballots” and other campaign literature** distributed to voters outside polling places. Results help reveal the support candidates receive in different neighborhoods.
- 3) **Answer voters' questions** about voting procedures and the election. Students who serve on Election Day will be prepared with a handbook that includes an overview of the election, FAQs and other critical information for voters (e.g., voter assistance, provisional ballots, Voter ID).

Why serve as an Election Ambassador?

- **Build your resume** and gain first-hand experience with the electoral process.
- **Provide eyes on the ground** for Seventy staff and other election advocates.
- **Earn community or service learning hours** (if applicable) and receive a **Certificate of Completion**.
- **Help ensure that voters have a smooth and welcoming experience at the polls.** As someone with a basic understanding of voting procedures and the election, you may have a lot to offer an uncertain or confused voter.

For more information, visit www.seventy.org or contact Patrick Christmas at pchristmas@seventy.org.