



Bloomington/Normal Sunrise Rotary Education Ambassador Application and Sponsorship Information

History & Overview: In 1995 the Bloomington/Normal Sunrise Rotary club established a Teacher of the Year to recognize and acknowledge a local educator's innovative work and commitment to students and the community. The club continues to honor the education profession and the work of local educators through what has evolved into the Education Ambassador program.

Sunrise Rotary is seeking an Education Ambassador, who exemplifies Rotary International's "Ideal of Service" through:

- Offering "vocational talents" or professional knowledge, skills and abilities to improve the quality of life for students and the community
- Practicing high ethical standards in his/her personal, professional and community life

The Education Ambassador will receive a \$500 stipend and a year's paid membership in Sunrise Rotary so the educator can:

- Involve students in learning related to Rotary ideals
- Become acquainted with Rotary and Rotarians as an outlet for service
- Advance ideals of high ethical standards, international understanding, goodwill, and peace through fellowship with professionals united in service

What is Rotary? Rotary is a worldwide organization of professional leaders that provides service in the community, in the workplace, and throughout the world. The Rotary motto is *Service Above Self*. Belonging to a Rotary club gives men and women an organized outlet for contributing to their communities. Rotarians develop community service projects that address many of today's most critical issues, such as children at risk, poverty, hunger, illiteracy, polio, the environment, safe water, and violence. Rotarians also support vocational development, career development, and educational opportunities and international exchanges for students, teachers, and other professionals. More Rotary International information at <http://www.rotary.org/>

Benefits: The Education Ambassador will receive a \$500 stipend and a year's paid membership in Sunrise Rotary (July 1, 2007-June 30, 2008).

Stipend – a \$500 check along with a plaque will be presented to the Education Ambassador in July with the expectation that he/she report back at a club meeting about how the money was spent to enhance student learning in ways that align with Rotary ideals.

Honorary membership – as a Rotary member, the Education Ambassador will actively participate in regular meetings and functions over the summer starting in July in order to connect with the group before the school year starts. The club

meets every Tuesday from 6:50-7:50 a.m. at Eastland Suites for breakfast, fellowship and an educational program. The Education Ambassador will have the opportunity to serve on a committee representing four avenues of service; Club Service, Community Service, International Service or Vocational Service.

Future Membership: At the end of the year of honorary membership, the Education Ambassador can explore continued association with the club through the regular membership process starting with an informational lunch. Membership costs approximately \$10/week, which covers the cost of the breakfast.

Past teacher honorees, who are currently members, list the following positives associated with continued membership:

- “to meet and share local educational concerns, accomplishments, and issues with other professionals in the community”
Pamala Eaton, 1998 (public school educator)
- “to be introduced to new and current programs that service and enrich our growing community”
James Tabor, 2000 (parochial school educator)
- “to be able to contribute community service vs usually being on the receiving end of service”
Brenda Nardi, 2003 (private school educator)

Eligibility: All educators in public, private, parochial or vocational educational settings in Bloomington-Normal, Illinois. This award has been expanded to include early childhood, higher education, and adult education such as GED (General Educational Development) or ESL (English as a Second Language). The educator must be teaching half to full time during the current or preceding school year.

Timeline: Entries should be typed and the completed application and narrative returned to a Sunrise Rotary member OR Sunrise Rotary Education Ambassador, Att: President Susan Hoover, PO BOX 68, Normal, IL 61761. Entries must be received by April 15, 2007. The selected educator will be notified by May 15th and recognized at a convenient Sunrise Rotary meeting in mid-July. One year’s honorary membership will be July 1, 2007 – June 30, 2008.

Application/Sponsorship: Applications can be initiated by Sunrise Rotarians who recruit and sponsor an Educator Ambassador candidate or by an educator who self-selects and contacts Pamala Eaton at epheaton@aol.com or 829-3424 for a Rotary sponsor to help with the process. Applicants are encouraged to visit as a guest with their sponsor before applying. Use the following application form, which can be reproduced electronically.

**Bloomington/Normal Sunrise Rotary
Education Ambassador
Application and Sponsorship Form**

Applicant _____

Sponsored by Sunrise Rotarian _____

Applicant:

- 1) Discuss how your beliefs about teaching relate to beliefs of Rotarians.
- 2) Context (current teaching assignment, location, students, responsibilities, co-curricular involvement, etc.)
- 3) List any service-related experience, either personal experience or with your students, that would support your application for Education Ambassador.
- 4) How might you use the \$500 stipend to enhance student learning in ways that align with Rotary ideals.

Sponsor:

- 1) In what ways does this educator exemplify the Rotary International's "Ideal of Service" (offer evidence in support of the following)
 - a. Offers "vocational talents" or professional knowledge, skills and abilities to improve the quality of life for students and the community
 - b. Practices high ethical standards in personal, professional and community life
- 2) For what segment of the educational community would this educator be an ambassador? How would selection of this educator as Education Ambassador be mutually beneficial for the club and for the educator?
- 3) Additional relevant comments.

Educator Signature _____ Date _____

Home Address _____

E-mail Address _____ Phone _____

Include one letter of recommendation in addition to the comments by your Sunrise Rotary sponsor.

