



2024 Nebraska Corn and Soy Collegiate Ambassador Program

Creating opportunities for our future leaders

The Corn & Soy Collegiate Ambassador Program is an opportunity for Nebraska college students to grow in their understanding of, and become better voices for, the agricultural industry. Students will learn about the issues affecting agriculture on a state and federal level as well as opportunities to be involved in the industry through the associations and industry cooperators. This program is led by the Nebraska Corn Growers Association (NeCGA) and the Nebraska Soybean Association, with support from the Nebraska Corn Board, Nebraska Soybean Board, and others. The goal of this program is to equip students with the tools they need to become leaders in the industry and advocates for agriculture. Students should expect no more than one to two days away from school per semester. Class excuse letters will be provided if needed.

The program will run from January 1, 2024, to December 31, 2024. During that time students will attend seminars where they will learn about various aspects of the agriculture industry, participate in a tour highlighting Nebraska agriculture, and have opportunities to promote Nebraska's corn and soybean industries. Upon successful completion of all requirements of the program students will receive a \$1,000 scholarship towards their education expenses. Students will not be responsible for any expenses to participate in programs.

DETAILS

Applications - Interested students should complete the application, found at necga.org, and return it to the emails provided or mail to NeCGA by **Friday, December 15, 2023**. Applications will be reviewed, and notices sent before winter break.

Seminar Topics - *Seminar dates listed below are for planning purposes only. Schedules will be finalized after reviewing selected students' schedules. Seminar topics are subject to change.*

❏ **January/February "Policy & Leadership"**

Students will gain an understanding of the legislative and leadership work of the Nebraska Corn Growers Association and the Nebraska Soybean Association. In addition, students will hear firsthand from agriculture policy experts on issues (both State and Federal) that are important to agriculture.

❏ **April "Industry Partners"**

Representatives from supporting industries like the Nebraska Corn Board and Nebraska Soybean Board will provide an understanding of their roles in promoting the industry. Additionally, students will learn about advocacy opportunities these organizations provide.

❏ **Summer "Agriculture Industry Tour"**

Students will join their peers involved with other agriculture organizations on a tour highlighting Nebraska's agriculture industry. Stops will provide students firsthand views of different sides of agriculture as well as highlight potential internship and job opportunities. This may be a one- or two-day tour.

❏ **September /October "College and Beyond"**

Once you have left college, how can you stay involved in ag? This session will highlight opportunities that students have after they graduate from the university.

Industry Promotion – During the course of the program, students will be required to attend and help at 3 promotional/education events for the Nebraska Corn Growers Association, Nebraska Soybean Association, Nebraska Corn Board, and/or Nebraska Soybean Board. Students can participate in existing opportunities like the Nebraska State Fair and Husker Harvest Days or get creative and develop their own promotional opportunity. Students will also be asked to use their social media presence to advocate for agriculture. This could be in the form of a tweet, Facebook post, Instagram post or blog post.

Career Exploration Interview – Careers in the corn and soybean industry are abundant! Each student will have an opportunity during the ambassador program to visit with a representative from a career field they are interested in.

Reflective Reporting – Throughout the ambassador experience students will be asked to provide written reflective reports on what they learned and how they will grow from those experiences. Reports will need to be submitted for the 4 seminars, 3 promotional activities, job shadowing and summer tour day. A blog post or radio report for Nebraska Corn may substitute for one written report.

Applicant Eligibility – Prior to completing the attached application, please make sure you can carry out the following requirements to participate in the mentoring program.

- ☐ Applicants must be enrolled full time in a Nebraska post-secondary school.
- ☐ Applicants must be able to attend all seminars and complete all requirements before receiving their scholarship. *If a student is unable to attend a seminar, prior arrangements must be made*
- ☐ Selected applicants will be responsible for transportation to and from seminars (reimbursement for travel expenses will be provided).
- ☐ Participating students must have access to and communicate effectively by email.
- ☐ Participating students will be required to type all reflective reports.

Scholarship Requirements – to receive the \$1,000 academic scholarship, students must complete all of the above requirements by November 20, 2024 (Wednesday before Thanksgiving break).

Contact:

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