

2024 PURDUE ANIMAL SCIENCES AMBASSADORS APPLICATION

PURPOSE. The Purdue Animal Sciences (ANSC) Ambassadors are selected student representatives and highly-valued members of the outreach, departmental, and alumni relations leadership team of Purdue Animal Sciences. ANSC Ambassadors represent Purdue Animal Sciences by communicating with potential students, alumni, employers, faculty, and the public to promote goodwill within and for the department and university.

ACTIVITIES. ANSC Ambassadors are directly involved in outreach, education, and alumni relations. Serving as an ANSC Ambassador requires a significant commitment of effort and time to make Ambassador events and activities as effective as possible. ANSC Ambassadors design and deliver many of their events, but also represent the department on numerous other occasions, e.g., prospective student events, extension events, and departmental visitor events.

CRITERIA. Applicants must be full-time students with a major in the Department of Animal Sciences, have completed a minimum of 24 credit hours by the end of the current semester (Spring 2024), be in good academic standing, and have at least two semesters of undergraduate study remaining.

Application packets must include:

1. A one-page cover letter explaining why you want to be an ANSC Ambassador, what you will contribute to the mission of Purdue Animal Sciences, and how you will manage your time for this commitment.

(Please include responses for all three prompts)

2. **Writing Prompt #1:** You receive an email from a prospective high school student, Roger, who you met during an Animal Sciences Preview Day. Roger would like to know what types of “hands-on” experience he will gain as a student in Purdue’s Department of Animal Sciences. Please draft an appropriate email response to the student.

3. **Writing Prompt #2:** Think of a time you felt out of place. ANSC students come from all places and backgrounds. What initiatives would you as an Ambassador create or facilitate to help international, non-traditional, or underrepresented students feel more welcomed into the ANSC department? How would you measure the success of your initiatives? (no less than 150 words)

4. **Writing Prompt #3:** The Animal Sciences Ambassadors consist of five committees. Which of these committees do you think you would fit into best? What new ideas would you bring to this committee that would advance the committee’s mission? (no less than 150 words)

4. **Two reference letters:** One letter must be from a Purdue faculty or staff person. Purdue staff members must be involved in teaching, research, Extension, or advising. The other letter can be from any non-relative who you feel is qualified to gauge your potential for success (e.g., former teacher, employer, etc.). In each case, strong letters usually address leadership capacity, commitment, and ability to work with diverse groups, among other attributes. Please have your reference letters sent via email to Anna Ripke, aripke@purdue.edu.

5. **A resume** highlighting your relevant skills and experiences.

Your packet (items listed above) must be received by Anna Ripke via email (aripke@purdue.edu) by March 8th at 5:00 PM. Applicants should include the names of their references in the application cover letter. The Screening Committee will review application packets and select applicants for an interview. Note that the Committee seeks applicants who work hard with a positive attitude, communicate well, respect differences, and think critically, with a clear motivation to promote Purdue Animal Sciences. Ambassadors are expected to lead, but also collaborate and be supportive of the entire group's efforts. ***Importantly, ANSC Ambassadors must always be inclusive of both people and ideas.***

TERM. Selected ANSC Ambassadors will begin their service with the Animal Sciences Ambassador Orientation Workshop in Fall of 2024. The success of the group is dependent upon everyone's engagement in not only developing, but also implementing effective programs. Thus, it is important to note that the group has an attendance policy for both meetings and events. Likewise, ANSC Ambassadors must remain ANSC students in good academic standing.

SCHEDULE.

- March 8th: Application packet due by email (aripke@purdue.edu) by 5:00 PM
- March 21st: Selected applicants invited to interview
- April 3rd: Applicants interviewed; new ambassadors selected
- April 5th: Selectees notified

Have questions? Please contact Anna Ripke, Academic Advisor and ANSC Ambassador Advisor, at any time: aripke@purdue.edu; CRTN 1058

2023-2024 ANSC Ambassador Activities

All Animal Sciences Ambassadors are expected to use their leadership and interpersonal skills to implement high-impact programs. Every ANSC Ambassador is expected to be an active member of the ANSC Ambassador Team, support one another, and participate in all activities. Attendance at the group's bi-weekly meetings, where ANSC Ambassadors share ideas and plan events, is mandatory. Likewise, all ANSC Ambassadors are required to attend the Fall Orientation Workshop. While each ANSC Ambassador serves on one committee, all ANSC Ambassadors are expected to contribute in the design, planning, and implementation of different activities. There are currently five committees:

1. PREVIEW DAYS COMMITTEE

Choosing the right college or university can be both exciting and daunting. The Animal Sciences Ambassadors engage with prospective students and their families throughout the year to help them navigate this process to make the best decision possible. Each year, the Preview Days Committee plans and delivers their signature "Preview Days" events where prospective students and their families spend a Saturday (four per year) on-campus to learn more about the Purdue Animal Sciences program and community. Our guests see first-hand the different opportunities, resources, and experiences available through Purdue Animal Sciences. Importantly, Preview Days are student-run events which allows prospective students and their families to directly engage with current students throughout the day to learn their perspectives on how to have the most successful undergraduate career.

2. DEVELOPMENT AND EXTERNAL ENGAGEMENT (DEVENG) COMMITTEE

Purdue Animal Sciences students and faculty are doing great things! The Development and External Engagement Committee aims to share these accomplishments with alumni and the department's many stakeholders and, in doing so, foster stronger connections and increase opportunities within the department. Additionally, we oversee departmental visits, tours, offcampus events, and social media to share what Purdue Animal Sciences has to offer. This committee works with all other Animal Sciences Ambassador committees to assess the impact of our events and uses those findings to continually make our events stronger and well-received.

3. DEPARTMENTAL RELATIONS (DR) COMMITTEE

The Department of Animal Sciences is the biggest in the College of Agriculture. The Departmental Relations Committee organizes and facilitates departmental events aimed at creating a more engaged and welcoming Animal Sciences community and fostering lasting connections. Throughout the year we host an Animal Sciences Kick-off event with refreshments and games, blood drives, faculty and staff appreciation breakfasts, our annual dodgeball tournament, and many more.

4. DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION (DEI) COMMITTEE

Students achieve greater academic success when they feel they are part of a greater community of students, staff, and professors and the DEI committee works to ensure that all students know they are part of the Purdue Animal Sciences community. This year, the committee is conducting a quantitative research study to measure Animal Sciences students' perceptions of belonging in the department. Results from this study will inform the development of high-impact initiatives that further promote inclusion at the department, college, and even university levels. The committee also works with groups across campus to deliver educational events for students, staff, and professors. Together, these activities help the department in making sure that Purdue Animal Sciences offers a program where everyone is welcome and everyone can succeed.

5. BOILER BARNYARD COMMITTEE

The Boiler Barnyard is an annual event during Purdue Spring Fest where over 30,000 participants visit Purdue's campus to learn about agriculture and beyond. The Boiler Barnyard takes place in the Purina Pavilion and showcases livestock and poultry (live animals) and animal science-related student clubs. Throughout the event, Ambassadors conduct education programs with the animals on food animal production with audiences that may have very little experience with food production.