



## **5 Misconceptions About the Ambassador Program –**

**You need to be an extrovert** – this couldn't be further from the truth. In fact, one of the most common reasons that candidates join the program is to push themselves out of their comfort zones. A true leader relies more on listening than speaking. You do not need to be the loudest or bubbliest person in a room to stand out, so why not be true to yourself. Have trouble talking to strangers? Is public speaking your worst nightmare? Do you lack confidence? This program is for YOU!

We take things slow, building you up throughout the 6 months in a supportive environment. We are your biggest cheerleaders and are here for you every step of the way!

**I don't fit the mould** – We don't have a "mould". Short, tall, round or purple...our idea of radiance is the one that comes from within. The one that allows you to empower yourself and others! Being a candidate is about the honor of representing your community. The honor of being a positive influence to everyone you cross paths with. You will gain an extra boost of confidence that will carry you throughout your life. Participating in the program is an experience and a sense of pride that will never leave you. And the impression that you make on others, will never leave them.

**You don't gain any real-world skills** - When was the last time you had to stand up in front of a panel of judges and answer a barrage of questions ranging from your future goals to your thoughts on political matters such as how to help the homeless population?? Our candidates demonstrate the ability to think on their feet and present their thoughts in an articulate and concise manner. They exhibit self-motivation, determination, organizational skills, and public speaking skills. We help develop important life skills that will serve our candidates well as they enter their professional lives, whether in business, arts, technology or academics. Here is what our candidates are exposed to in just 6 short months:

Kamloops Mayor and Council —City Affairs

Angie Polos—Kamloops Tourism

Kayla Meecham—Poise/Fashion Show

Const. Dana Napier (RCMP)—Street Awareness/Internet Safety

Rich Woods—Media

Tricia Walsh-Mercuri—Financial Planning

Cassidy Watt Artistry Collective—Skin & Hair Care

Kamloops Blazers—Volunteerism/Networking

Todd Paquin—Ballroom Dance

KAS Committee—University Preparation  
Kathy Peterson—Stress Management/Wellbeing  
Courtney Pidduck—Dance/Yoga  
TRU Trades Department—Exploring Careers in Trades & Technology  
Acacia Pangilinan—Public Speaking  
Carmelina Woods—Personal Perseverance  
Dan Roberts—Auto Mechanics  
Tiger Martial Arts—Self Defense  
Jackie Bonn—Orienteering  
Toastmasters  
Indigenous Impact

**It costs money to join** - There is no cost to join the program! Each candidate is responsible for finding a sponsor that will cover the costs of your candidacy. This could be a family business, your workplace, your favorite place to shop at, the list goes on! We will help you during the process. We have fantastic local sponsors who love to support our candidates. Cost will never be an obstacle to someone wanting to join the program.

**I'm too busy!** - This is one we hear a lot. Our classes are once a week (Sunday from 2-4pm) until March/April when we add a Wednesday class (usually 5:30-7:30pm) once we start speech and dance. You'll receive a calendar with scheduled classes, so you will know in advance what is coming up. There are a few community events that we are invited to every year, but we'll give you as much notice as possible, and while we want you to take in as much as you can during your six months, they are not mandatory. As a bonus, we also teach skills like time management and stress management. Making a commitment until July sounds like a long time, but trust us, it goes by so fast! Without fail, no one can believe it when election weekend arrives. Plus, you'll be wishing it wasn't over! Think of this time as an investment in yourself. You are worth it!

We support and encourage post-secondary education...whatever that looks like to you! Should you be chosen as a Kamloops Ambassador, we will provide a bursary to you upon completion of your Ambassador year.