

PLANNED PARENTHOOD OF THE ST. LOUIS REGION (PPSLR)

www.ppslr.org

PROJECT: *Teen Advocates for Sexual Health (TASH)*

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION: Teen Advocates for Sexual Health is a group of approximately 40-50 teens (grades 9-12) representing diverse backgrounds from the greater St. Louis Metropolitan Area. TASH creates, develops, plans and implements programs that move toward a greater understanding and appreciation of healthy sexuality based on teen rights, respect and responsibility.

PURPOSE: The purpose of Teen Advocates for Sexual Health is to improve the sexual health of adolescents throughout the St. Louis Metropolitan Area. From advocating for comprehensive, medically accurate sex education in their schools, to preventing teen dating violence, to increasing honest communication about sex between teens and adults and much more, TASH members serve as agents for change.

SUPERVISION: Supervised by the TASH program director, TASH is student designed and student driven.

TEEN RECRUITMENT: All St. Louis area teens (grades 9-12) are invited to submit an application provided by PPSLR. Students are recruited from schools, faith institutions, youth serving organizations and by word of mouth. All students submitting an application attend an informational meeting (September) with staff and returning TASH students. **Selection is based on a primary & secondary application; attendance at the informational meeting and demonstration of commitment.** Students will be notified several days following the informational meeting.

INCENTIVES: The teens are eligible to receive community service hours, which are required by most schools for graduation. Teens feel empowered and respected to make a positive difference. Participating in an action based, teen designed and driven initiative is exciting and awarding.

RESPONSIBILITIES: Members of Teen Advocates for Sexual Health are responsible for designing, planning and implementing all aspects of the program delivered to the community. Planned Parenthood staff supervise all activities.

TIME COMMITMENT: Teen Advocates for Sexual Health meets regularly bi-monthly on **Wednesday, 2nd and 4th of each month, 4:45-7 PM from September through June. Students participate in a fall/winter Saturday Retreat.** Non-seniors are encouraged to participate a minimum of 2 years serving as mentors to new participants. Members also participate in subcommittees, requiring additional meetings throughout the program.

PARENT/GUARDIAN PERMISSION: All teens must have parental permission to participate. Informational letters & permission forms are provided to parents.

TRANSPORTATION: TASH provides bus passes, encourages car-pooling and will provide taxi transportation if necessary. TASH does not want transportation to be a barrier to participation.

August and September are primary recruitment month with new mid year recruitment. If you would like more information on Teen Advocates for Sexual Health, contact Judy Lipsitz, Program Director (314) 531-7526, extension 339. E-mail: judy.lipsitz@ppslr.org

TEEN ADVOCATES FOR SEXUAL HEALTH