

**Matilda Joslyn Gage Foundation Girl Ambassadors for Human Rights  
2019 – 2020 Application**

210 E. Genesee Street, Fayetteville NY 13066

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Drawing on the life and legacy of Matilda Joslyn Gage, the **Girl Ambassadors for Human Rights** **Program** empowers and inspires young women to become agents of change on the local, national, and global stage. Meetings, speakers, and activities delve into a wide range of topics*.* High school-aged girls interested in feminism, social justice, global connections, and community service are encouraged to apply.

The Matilda Joslyn Gage Girl Ambassador Program is funded through private donations, grants, fundraising by the Girl Ambassadors, and an Annual Fundraiser organized by the Girl Ambassador’s Parents.

During the 2018-19 program year, The Matilda Joslyn Gage Girl Ambassadors for Human Rights had the opportunity to:

* Facilitate Community Dialogues on Modern Day Human Trafficking, Physical and Sexual Abuse, Generational Women’s Rights, and The Rights of Indigenous People.
* Participate in the Women’s March in Seneca Falls and in Syracuse
* Attend Dialogue Panels organized as a part of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women Series in New York City
* Host an evening of Dialogue sponsored by the Women’s Bar Association of New York State as a part of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women Series.
* Visit the Mohawk Nation at Akwesasne for a cultural immersion program.
* Participate in a Text Dialogue with girls from an Islamic Girls High School in Ghana, West Africa that Girl Ambassadors had met during their July 2018 visit to Ghana., and interview the girls about Women’s Rights Issues, their dreams as young women in Africa, and about the Girls Education Movement in their country.

During the 2019–20 program year, the Girl Ambassadors will focus on **International Women’s Rights Movements, and their role in ending conflict around the World.** There will be aspecial emphasis on the **History of the Struggle for Women’s Suffrage during the centennial of the 1920 adoption of the woman suffrage amendment to the Constitution**. Ambassadors will examine and dialogue about the Intersectionality between Indigenous, International, and U.S. Women as we address the five Social Justice issues that Matilda Joslyn Gage championed in her lifetime:

* Native Nation Sovereignty and treaty rights
* Women’s Rights
* Human Trafficking
* Religious Freedom
* Transformative Justice

**Expectations and Requirements of 2019-20 Girl Ambassadors:**

* Attend two (2) Sunday General Meetings a month - 3-5pm. (Only three (3) excused absences allowed) Absences can be made up with special project assignments.
* Attend the Sunday, September 22, 2019 Orientation Meeting from 3-5:00pm
* Participate in two (2) Fundraisers that help fund the Girl Ambassador Program
* Attend Trainings on Dialogue Facilitation, (during monthly Sunday meetings), and participate in a bi-monthly dialogue with Girl Ambassador peers.
* Facilitate at least two (2) Community Dialogues with girls, women, boys, and men from the Greater Syracuse Area.
* Participate in at least two (2) SKYPE dialogues offered between Ambassadors and girls from different locations in our country, and from around the World. (During General Meeting when possible)
* Participate in three (3) required Community Service Projects:

1. Partner with the *Pretty Girls Rock* Program, for an evening of packaging personal care items for five (5) different Women’s Shelters.

2. Participate in one (1) *“We Rise from The Streets”* sandwich

making Saturdays, to feed the economically challenged and

homeless.

3. Learn how to make Reusable Sanitary Napkin Pads, and

create a donation to Girls in the U.S. and Girls in Ghana.

(During a Sunday monthly, general meeting) Create an

Educational Program promoting the use of Reusable Pads

and share the Environmental Impact.

* Host (1) “Gage Salon” as a part of the Gage Foundation Speakers Series. These public events feature Interviews of Women from various Professions and Walks of Life. They also provide the Girl Ambassadors the opportunity to share their experiences in the program. (Gage Salons take place on Sunday Afternoons, opposite our Sunday afternoon general meetings.)
* Plan and Implement a Girl Ambassador’s Masculinity and Feminism Dialogue Conference in the Fall of 2019.
* Plan and Implement a Girl Ambassadors Reunion honouring Ambassadors from previous years - First weekend in January 2020.

**Girl Ambassadors who complete the listed requirements are eligible to:**

* **Attend a Trip to Washington, D.C. - Spring Break 2020. The trip will feature an International Dialogue on Women and Conflict: Israel and Palestine; a visit to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum and the National African American Museum; meetings with Women Leaders from the U.S., and visits to International Women’s Organizations.**
* **Travel to Akwesasne (Northern NY) to visit the Mohawk Nation and to learn about Haudenosaunee Culture during a Late Winter/Spring weekend in 2020.**

**International Ambassador Opportunity**

2019-2020 Girl Ambassadors may choose to register to become International Girl Ambassadors and travel to Ghana, West Africa during the summer of 2020. Ambassadors will have the chance to explore Gage’s five Social Justice Concentrations at an International level.

Ambassadors must acquire a Passport, a Travel Visa from Ghana ($100), and are required to have a Yellow Fever inoculation, as well as Malaria medication. Ambassadors will consult with their Physician about other travel shots that may be recommended.

Ambassadors are responsible for their plane fare and a $200 **non-refundable fee** towards ground expenses. Ambassadors fundraise as a group to cover lodging, food, bottled water, ground transportation, activities, and educational and historic site visits.

Girl Ambassadors that choose to be an International Ambassador agree to:

* Attend an Information/Orientation Session on September 22, 2019 from 5-6:00. (Right after our first General Meeting)
* Meet every - other week from 5-6:00 after our General Meeting

to plan the trip, fundraisers, and learn about Ghana Culture

* Pay a $200.00 **non-refundable fee** towards ground expenses by November 1st, 2019.
* Plan 2 fundraisers and implement them with group support.

Monies from these fundraisers will be credited towards ground fees.

**Application Process**

The Girl Ambassador program is a diverse group, recruiting girls from a wide variety of ethnic, racial, religious, gender, nationalities, urban, suburban, rural, and socio-economic identifications.

We are accepting up to three new Girl Ambassadors from each High School.

We will review submitted applications, and then offer interviews to the applications that we feel are the most qualified.

- Interviews will take place at the Matilda Joslyn Gage Center.

- Sign up information for dates and time slots for interviews will be sent

in an interview notification email.

**2019-2020 Girl Ambassadors Calendar**

Meetings are on Sundays, every other week, 3:00–5:00 p.m.

9/22/19 1/3-5 2020 4/12/20

Orientation Girl Ambassador

Parents Invited Reunion 5/3/20

5/17/20 Awards Tea

10/6/19

10/25-26/19 1/19/20

Overnight Retreat

11/03/19 2/2/20 \*Akwesasne Weekend

11/17/19 2/16/20 - TBA

\*Spring Break - TBA

12/7/19 3/1/20 - Trip to Washington

Saturday 3/15/20

Masculinity and “Our Mother’s Recipes”

Feminism Conference

3/29/20

12/15/19

\*When possible, activities will take place during our normal meeting time on Sundays. Some required activities, Social Events, and Special Opportunities may be scheduled during weekdays, or on Saturdays.

We will cancel a Sunday meeting, when possible, to accommodate these

schedule changes.

**Applicant Information**

Name:

Age:   
Date of Birth:   
Mailing Address:   
City: Zip:   
E-mail:

Phone Number:

Cell Number:

School:

School grade level Fall 2019:   
  
Have you applied to the Girls Ambassador Program before? Yes/No

Do you have a valid passport for possible travel into Canada during Akwesasne Trip, or are able to obtain one by February 2020? Yes/No

The Girl Ambassadors for Human Rights communicate through social media, and use closed group sites available to Ambassadors and their Parents. We use Facebook and GroupMe. Are you able to access and use these social media sites? Yes/No

**Extracurricular and Community Involvement**

The Matilda Joslyn Gage Girl Ambassadors for Human Rights program is an intensive social justice and dialogue program. Ambassadors are expected to balance this program with her extracurricular activities and academics. Please list the extracurricular activities you are involved in below, with at least two to three sentences explaining the activity, and your involvement. Attach an additional sheet if necessary.

**Essay Section**

Please answer each question completely, and to the best of your ability. Type or neatly print your answers on separate pieces of paper and attach them to your application.

- OR-

You may answer each question on a personal video. You should always face the camera. Be sure that the video is clear, and that your voice can always be heard. Answer the questions as completely as possible. Email your video to: Vanessa Johnson - griotwords@gmail.com

1. Who was Matilda Joslyn Gage?

What Social Justice Issue that Gage championed during her lifetime

most affects your life today?

2. What do you think the role of an Ambassador is?

3. What would you bring to the program if chosen?

4. What do you think is the most challenging issue facing women in the

United States today?

5. What are some activities that you have participated in, that have

given you the opportunity to meet and interact with people from

diverse racial, ethnic, gender, religious, physical or mental challenges

or socio-economic backgrounds?

How have these interactions impacted on your life?

6. Tell us about a woman or girl you respect as a Role Model and why?

**Applicant’s Parental/Guardian Consent**

Parent/Guardian Name:

E-mail:

Phone number:

Cell number:

Mailing address:

City: \_ State: \_ Zip:

I have read the Girl Ambassador for Human Rights program description to which my daughter is applying. To the best of my knowledge, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (child’s name) has a clear understanding of the program that she has applied for, and if selected, has my permission to participate.

* I understand that the Girl Ambassador Program is funded through donations, grants, and Fundraisers, and that my daughter is required to participate in 2 fundraisers during the program year.
* If my daughter is chosen as an Ambassador, I am willing to attend periodic Parent Group Meetings.
* I understand that the Parent Group will work with the Girl Ambassadors and Gage Center Volunteers, to help organize and implement one fundraiser for the Girl Ambassadors for Human Rights Program.
* I understand that the Girl Ambassadors communicate through closed group Social Media Sites.

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**Applicant references**

Name:

Occupation:

E-mail: \_ Phone Number:

Relationship to Applicant:

Please have your reference letters emailed to: [griotwords@gmail.com](mailto:griotwords@gmail.com)

Please have your reference include your full name in the reference letter.

Questions? Matilda Joslyn Gage Center: 315-637-9511  
 Vanessa Johnson - Program Director: 315-289-6573