

CRS Student Ambassador Program

INFORMATIONAL SESSION OUTLINE

WHY HOST AN INFORMATIONAL SESSION?

Inviting new students into your CRS Student Ambassador group is an incredibly important part of your mission and work as CRS Student Ambassadors. How else will everyone on campus be able to join you in your passion for global justice and efforts to bring it about? That's why it's important to host a simple and fun informational session so that like-minded students can spend time together and get more involved. Here is a sample outline, which you are welcome to adapt for your own campus.

BEFORE THE SESSION

Here are some items to take care of ahead of time. Work with your advisor and other student leaders to delegate planning and implementation tasks.

- **The Basics.** Plan the date, time and location of the session. Be sure to have all of these logistical details confirmed before you begin inviting others. Don't forget to think about the actual size and set-up of the room. Does it have speakers, projectors, enough outlets and any other A/V requirements?
- **The Script.** Plan the session itself using the draft script below. Who will lead which parts? What will he or she say?
- **The Tech.** If you're planning to show videos, website links or social media you'll need access to A/V equipment—and know how to use it. It's always a good idea to test it out ahead of time.
- **The Money.** Work with your advisor to find out if you have a budget. If so, this can be used for printing flyers to advertise for or pass out during the session, as well as for snacks. We hope you'll consider some [delicious fair trade products](#) from our partners or your local fair trade stores.
- **The Invites.** Don't forget to invite others and give them enough notice. People need time to plan. Check out our ["Recruiting" one pager](#) for more ideas!
- **The Day.** Arrive early to set up the space, including A/V equipment, chair arrangements, any displays or flyers you have to distribute and of course, snacks (fair trade chocolate & coffee??). Be sure to have a sign in sheet available to collect contact information. [Make copies of this handout if you plan to use it.](#)



SAMPLE OUTLINE

1. WELCOME [10 minutes]

- a. **Welcome the group** | “Good afternoon, my name is _____ and I am a CRS Student Ambassador here at _____. We are so glad you have joined us and look forward to growing our community of students here on campus. We’re passionate about the important global issues taking place at this very moment—forced migration of refugees, ongoing civil wars, climate change—and want to unite others who share our passion in order to wrestle with our role as global citizens. To get started, I’m going to pass around a sign-in sheet so that we can stay in touch with you throughout the semester.”
- b. **Introductions** | “First, I’d like to briefly introduce the other Ambassadors and Advisor(s) here with us tonight. [Introduce names & majors of other CRS-ers]. One thing you may have picked up on is that Catholic Relief Services focuses on global justice issues. We’ll talk a little more about their work later, but for now, I just wanted to share that CRS works in about 100 countries around the world addressing a whole spectrum of issues, from long term development projects, like agriculture, health care, and education, to acute emergency response, like in the case of the Haiti Earthquake. So, now I’d like to ask all of you to share with us briefly your name, major, and one global justice issue that you are interested in or passionate about. [Invite attendees to go around and share].”
- c. **Opening Prayer** | You can use this [Prayer of Stewardship](#) or another prayer from resources.crs.org (or just offer a spontaneous prayer of welcome).

2. OVERVIEW OF CRS [15 minutes]

- a. **Favorite things about CRS** | “Just to give you a quick flavor of CRS, two of our Ambassadors will share with you our favorite part about CRS or what we find most interesting. [2-3 Ambassadors share something they think is important about CRS].
- b. **Video** | “For more of a visual overview of the work of CRS, we want to [share this brief video from the field](#) with you.”
- c. **Debrief video** | “Did anything stand out to anyone? What did you find interesting/surprising?” [Allow a few comments, if there are any].

3. CRS STUDENT AMBASSADORS [10 minutes]

- a. **Our role** | “So, what is our role within all of us—within a world that seems so messy, violent and full of injustice? As college students, CRS provides us with resources and connections to CRS programming in the field so that we can take the issues we are passionate about and bring them to life on campus. Why? Because we believe that we shouldn’t be the only ones who know that 1 in 113 people around the world were displaced from their homes due to violence in 2015. We believe that our peers should know that people around the world are already living the effects of climate change, making it harder for families to eat and stay healthy.”
- b. **Examples** | “What does this look like? Well here on our campus, so far we have ... [share types of events and activities that you’ve done on campus and/or that you hope to do].”
- c. **Video** | “And, here’s a [video example](#) that highlights what some other campuses around the country are doing.”
- d. **I am the Cause. I am the Solution.** | “Each year, as part of the “I am the Cause. I am the Solution.” campaign, CRS focuses on core issues where they see a real possibility for people in the US, especially college students, to make an impact. The idea behind these campaigns is that we are often partially responsible for injustices happening around the world, and that, more importantly, we can be the solution. This year, CRS is offering three programming focuses: “I am Refugees.” “I am Human Trafficking.” And “I am Climate Change.” Within each of these areas, there are tons of CRS resources and ideas for programming. [Optional: show website] Through these resources, we work together to raise awareness on campus, and take action through legislative advocacy to affect US leaders as they determine policies that affect our brothers and sisters around the world.”

4. BRAINSTORM & CONVERSATION [flexible length of time]

- a. **Global Justice Reflection Activity [optional]** | “Earlier we mentioned our own interest in particular global justice issues. Now, let’s take a few minutes to dig into that a little bit more. We will form small groups and work through the reflection questions on [this handout](#) with our groups. As we begin to work together this year to bring to life these issues on campus,

- it's important to first take a step back and think about our own connections to global justice—and why we care.” [Optional: Debrief after by asking if anyone would like to share what they discussed in their groups or what they found interesting.]
- b. **Open Brainstorm** | Give folks an opportunity to respond and share what interests them the most. One way to do this is to invite everyone to spend 1-2 minutes sharing with a neighbor about where they see the most potential for this group to have an impact on campus. Invite people to then share with the larger group and a way to get conversation flowing. Be sure to be prepared with follow up questions to guide the conversation, and don't be afraid to make them specific to your campus and what you'd like to accomplish this year. (Ideally, as leaders you will have already thought about some initial plans, so this is a good place to transition their interest and passion into concrete involvement in planning and helping with upcoming events.). Here are some potential questions you could ask during the conversation:
- What issues do you think will resonate most on our campus?
 - What campus events are already happening that intersect well with CRS issues, especially climate change, refugees, and human trafficking?
 - What other groups are you involved with on campus with whom we could partner?
 - Are folks interested in helping us plan an upcoming event? (You can be specific if you already have something planned.) Are folks interested in helping us with _____ [if you are in need of someone to help with social media, taking meeting notes, etc.]?
 - Does this sound like a good idea? [Share something you're thinking of doing to get feedback.]

5. **Wrap Up & Follow Up** [5 minutes]

- a. **Next Steps** | Be sure to let them know when they can expect to hear from you via email, if/how they can connect with you on social media and when the next meeting/gathering/event is that they can come to. Give them your contact information as well in case they'd like to reach out.
- b. **Questions** | Are there any questions from the group?
- c. **Closing Prayer** | Choose a prayer from resources.crs.org (or just offer a spontaneous prayer of thanks).
- d. **Thank You** | “Thank you for coming—we look forward to working with you to make the world a better place.”

