

# IAA Peer Helper Application

## APPLICANTS:

Please fill out this form completely. Return it to the Wellness Center. In addition, please ask three different teachers, administrators, or parents (not your own) to submit a recommendation form (attached) for you before the deadline. **You must have at least 2 recommendation letter from a teacher or administrator in the school.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade/Tutor Group: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

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**On a separate piece of paper, please answer the following questions as thoroughly and specifically as you can:**

1. Why do you want to be part of the Peer Helper program?
2. What personal strengths would you bring to the program?
3. What difficult experience have you had which you have successfully worked through? Please discuss how this experience could potentially help you to help other students.
4. Discuss how you currently demonstrate the following helping skills: openness about your feelings and personal experiences, sensitivity towards others' needs and feelings, and respect for the information shared by other students.
5. Write down any questions you would like us to answer for you in your interview.

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After receiving applications, we will begin the interview process. We will call you down to the Counselling Office during one of your class periods that will be least disruptive to you. If you have any questions or concerns, please seek out the Secondary Counsellors..

*Thank you for your interest!*

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The Peer Helping Program provides an additional means for school staff to help students learn responsible leadership and to develop interpersonal and support skills for helping others. Peer helping is a support activity which takes advantage of the positive influences young people have on one another. Recent studies indicate that Peer Helpers can influence change in behavior and even attitude within other students. Teenagers are more likely to accept feedback from peers on how they are perceived as persons and also as helpers (listeners) in solving problems. They gain an additional perspective on alternatives in decision-making as well as preparation for accepting consequences for decisions.

This Peer Helper Program will be under the direct supervision of the Secondary Counsellors.

An intensive weekend training program will be provided to Peer Helper students the first weekend after school starts, both Friday and Saturday. The readiness of each individual Peer Helper will be assessed prior to the beginning of helping sessions. After the initial intensive training period, additional training and supervised group activities will be provided throughout the school year.

The process by which students are selected to be Peer Helpers has five steps:

**1. Nominations and Application:**

Faculty members and students may nominate candidates. Self-nomination is encouraged. Applications should be returned to the Secondary Counsellors.

**2. Parental Permission Form:**

Prospective Peer Helper students and their parents or guardians must sign and return this form in order for the student to participate in the selection process and the program.

**3. Recommendation:**

Recommendation forms will be necessary to complete applications to the course. Three recommendations must be submitted by school staff and community members on the student's behalf. These reports are confidential and will be read by the Peer Helper selection advisors. The forms will be destroyed after the Peer Helpers have been selected.

**4. Interviews:**

The Peer Helper advisors will interview each applicant who applies for selection.

**5. Contracts:**

Each Peer Helper will be asked to sign a contract outlining training, ethics, and academic requirements.

Note: The Peer Helpers will meet during breaks and after school so as not to interfere with classes. However, Peer Helpers may need to miss class in order to complete peer mediations, group meetings with students, and individual helping sessions. In these cases, Peer Helpers are expected to catch up on the work missed in a timely manner.

If you need additional information, please email Liz Shuler [l.shuler@iaa.edu.jo](mailto:l.shuler@iaa.edu.jo) or Devon Stafford [d.stafford@iaa.edu.jo](mailto:d.stafford@iaa.edu.jo).

**The completed form should be returned to Liz Shuler or Devon Stafford (Secondary Counsellors).**

**PARENTAL/GUARDIAN PERMISSION:** I hereby give my son/daughter permission to participate in the Peer Helper Program selection process and to attend training if accepted. The content of the program has been described to me, and I understand the special nature of the program.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Student Name)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Parent/Guardian Signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

# CONFIDENTIAL

## PEER HELPER PROGRAM RECOMMENDATION

(This is a confidential form: please do not share with the student.)

- We are looking for individuals who will be positive role models and will openly discuss adolescent issues with other students. Your observations and comments are a valuable part of our selection process.
- Place a check in the appropriate column to indicate the extent to which you agree that each statement applies to this student. Please provide specific comments as your comments help us to discern the differences between applicants.
- The enclosed form will be read by the Peer Helper advisors only. After the selection process has been completed, this form will be destroyed.
- To ensure confidentiality, please return this form to Liz Shuler's pigeon hole or office folded no later than **March 29<sup>th</sup>**.

*Thank you for your help!*

# PEER HELPER RECOMMENDATION

Applicant's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Person Providing Recommendation: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_

He or she is/has	No basis for answer	Strongly Agree	Agree	Strongly Disagree	Disagree
Responsible					
Good rapport with peers					
Works independently					
Trustworthy: able to keep confidences					
Sensitive: able to show concern for others					
Good listening skills					
Perceptive and alert					
Good problem solving skills					

**Other Comments (please use the back of this form or an attached sheet if necessary):**

**I would/would not (circle one) recommend this student as a Peer Helper because:**

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