



ADEA Dental Student Ambassador Program

The *ADEA Dental Student Ambassador Program* aims to inspire and empower future generations of dental professionals. Current dental students return to their high school (or visit a high school local to their dental school) to share with interested students their passion for dentistry and discuss the rewards and challenges of their chosen career path. At the end of each school year, the student chapter with the most participating dental students will receive a \$200 gift card to use on chapter-related activities.

Target Audience(s): High school students (primary) and guidance counselors (tertiary/secondary)

Rationale: Many students begin thinking about their careers in high school. We want dentistry to be top of mind as early as possible. Students respond/relate better to peers and individuals that have similar experiences, therefore, high school students hearing from current dental students that attended their high school will make the most impact. Finally, to be a successful dental school applicant, students must be strong in the sciences. Getting that message across to students – and guidance counselors – as early as possible means a stronger/more competitive applicant pool down the road.

Organizing Your Visit

- Primary points of contact should be the **guidance/career office** or **science/biology teachers**
- Aim to present during a lunch or study period or after school
- Types of schools/classes/programs to target include:
 - Vocational schools
 - Afterschool clubs (e.g. HOSA, science)
 - Schools with dental assisting classes

During Your Talk

- **Discuss** your personal journey to dental school.
- **Avoid** the nitty gritty (e.g. how many semesters of chemistry, interview questions, how many schools did you apply to, etc.) unless you are asked specific questions.
- **Limit** your presentation to 10-12 minutes; leave 10 minutes for questions.
- **Skip** the PowerPoint presentation; informal is better.
- **Wear** your white coat (if possible)!

Most importantly, **have fun!**