



Safe Shelter of St. Vrain Valley TERA Program – Teens Ending Relationship Abuse Program Overview

Purpose, Mission, and Goals

The Teens Ending Relationship Abuse (TERA) Program is an educational and prevention program for youth that creates awareness among high school students about unhealthy and abusive relationships. The TERA Program hopes to encourage teens to create positive healthy relationships and to safely intervene when they or a friend is in an unhealthy relationship.

TERA utilizes high school students as “Peer Educators.” The Peer Educators (PEs) present an educational program on healthy relationships, the dynamics and prevention of abusive relationships, and the available support services within the community to their peers in a variety of settings (i.e., high schools, community groups, and community events).

TERA is a program of the Safe Shelter of St. Vrain Valley, which is a nonprofit organization that provides programs and services to all those affected by domestic violence.

Mission Statement:

The Teens Ending Relationship Abuse (TERA) Program seeks to educate youth in the community and schools through social awareness presentations for the prevention of interpersonal violence in our community.

Program Goals:

1. Peer Educators will gain knowledge about issues related to relationship abuse while enhancing presentation skills, self esteem and leadership qualities.
2. TERA presentations will increase St. Vrain Valley School District (SVVSD) students' knowledge and awareness of:
 - a. The dynamics and prevention of relationship abuse (including domestic violence, teen dating abuse, and sexual assault)
 - b. Personal rights and boundary-setting
 - c. Ways to help peers (both abusers and victims) get needed support and assistance
 - d. Available resources and services in their communities and outlets for support.

Peer Educators (PEs)

The purpose of the TERA Peer Educator position is to educate youth in the St. Vrain Valley School District and in the community about healthy relationships and the dynamics and prevention of relationship abuse among teens. The Peer Educators do this by giving presentations (in groups of 2-3) to students in high school classrooms and at community events.

As volunteers for Safe Shelter, Peer Educators have the opportunity to build their resumes, earn community service credits, gain letters of recommendation, and be awarded tokens of appreciation.

Qualifications:

Peer Educators must:

- Be able to make a commitment to the TERA Program from August through the end of the school year, attend all trainings, and make a conscious effort to attend as many meetings as possible.
- Not currently be involved in an abusive relationship.
- Be at least freshmen in high school in the St. Vrain Valley School District.
- Have a dedicated interest in creating positive social change by spreading awareness.
- Be committed to using non-violent behaviors and speech in their personal life.
- Model respect in their everyday life through non-judgmental words and actions.

All current and prospective PEs must attend the Peer Educator training at the beginning of the school year. Additionally, there will be a second training provided late in the fall months to recruit PEs for the spring semester.

Freshman Peer Educators must shadow presentations for one semester. During the spring semester freshman can be scheduled to make presentations to middle school students only.

Former Peer Educators who are recent high school graduates are welcome to be involved in the TERA Program. Duties are established on an individual basis with the TERA Program Director. Together, they will determine the participant's skills and personal goals for the year, creating a role that suits both the program's and the individual's needs.

Training

The Peer Educators are required to participate in a day-long training held at the beginning of the academic year. The training is facilitated by the TERA Program Director, other Safe Shelter staff, and other community agencies.

The training incorporates all of the topics that are covered in the TERA presentation in significant depth, as well as gender socialization and gender roles, media literacy, sexual coercion and assault, the LGBTQ population, cultural awareness and inclusion, presentation and leadership skills, and team building.

The TERA Curriculum

TERA PEs deliver interactive and educational presentations on healthy relationships, the dynamics and prevention of abusive relationships, and the available support services within the community to their peers in a variety of settings within the St. Vrain Valley School District (i.e., high schools, community groups, and community events).

All activities and discussions come from the TERA Curriculum. The TERA Curriculum is a compilation of lessons which provide a holistic education on relationships, abuse, and how to first become the best partner you can be before you get into a relationship.



Safe Shelter of St. Vrain Valley
TERA Program
Peer Educator Application



First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Date of birth: ____/____/____ Current grade level: _____

School: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

Cell phone: _____ Email: _____

Best way(s) to contact you (circle): *Email Call Cell Text Cell Call Home*

Parent(s) or Guardian(s): _____

Email(s): _____

Best numbers to reach them at: _____

Parents/guardians will not be contacted at this stage of the application process.

Please respond to the following questions to the best of your ability.

Please be informed that if you share any personal experience with: (1) dating abuse with a person over 18 years of age; or (2) child abuse, we are required by law to report this information to law enforcement and/or social services.

1. How did you hear about TERA and what made you interested in the program?

2. Why do you want to be a Peer Educator?

3. What strengths can you uniquely offer the TERA Program?

4. What skills are you interested in strengthening?

5. How do you feel about presenting in front of a group of people your age?

6. How do you define a “dating partner”?

7. How do you define “dating abuse”?

8. What would you do if your friend confided in you that her/his dating partner was being abusive?

9. Please describe your other time commitments for the school year (sports, youth groups, clubs, etc.).

10. Do you have a driver's license and access to a car? *This will not affect your admittance into the TERA Program.*

References

Please list two references that we can contact. One should be a teacher at the school you currently attend and who has you in their class during the past school year. The other should be an adult or person of authority who knows you well (i.e., an employer, a family friend, a scout leader, a youth leader, etc.), but is not an immediate family member. Please make sure that these people know that the TERA Program will be contacting them!

Name: _____

Relationship to applicant: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Name: _____

Relationship to applicant: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

If you have read all of the information in this application packet and are interested in applying to become a Peer Educator, please sign below:

Applicant

X _____ Date: _____

Parent or guardian

X _____ Date: _____