

## Answers to Frequently Asked Questions from Students and Parents



- **How do I access the Virtual Seminar?** You will receive a link to HOBY Connect (our virtual platform) by email, a few days prior to the start of the Virtual Leadership Seminar.
- **What technology devices will I need for the virtual seminar?** You can access the Virtual Seminar via your smartphone, tablet or computer.
- **Do you offer Assistive Technology?** HOBY Connect is hosted via CommPartners, a platform committed to digital accessibility. Click [here](#) to learn more about the free assistive technology and to view the [terms of use](#).
- **When will the seminar be held?** Seminar participants may log in as early as 6:45pm CT on Thursday, June 10. The seminar will begin with Ambassador Orientation on Thursday, June 10 at 7:00pm CT and will conclude after Closing Ceremonies on Saturday, June 12 at 7:00pm CT. You must be present for the entire seminar and participate in all general sessions and breakouts. A detailed schedule will be available 72 hours prior to the start of the Virtual Leadership Seminar. Plan to be engaged and participating each day with frequent breaks between general and breakout sessions.
- **What kind of program is planned?** We have taken all of the best parts of our dynamic, high-quality leadership seminar program and adapted it for a virtual audience. Our program is built around ambassador participation which means ambassadors (participants) get out of the program what they put in. The virtual platform allows for flexibility and additional resources to be provided that would not have been possible in-person. We are excited to welcome top-notch speakers and incorporate activities that address a variety of leadership related topics and will challenge how you think about leadership. Ambassadors can expect to participate in general sessions as well as breakouts with designated Group Facilitators, HOBY Alumni, and other participants from around North and South Dakota. Ambassadors will not be silent viewers; we've built in all the same interactive elements we offer in-person and highly encourage ambassadors to come prepared to interact, think critically and creatively, and have fun. The program will not promote any specific political party, religion, or way of thinking; but is designed to develop critical thinking skills by actively involving participants in discussions and informal debate. After the seminar, and after being equipped with the tools necessary, you will be asked to undertake a community service project (or projects) within your own community involving at least 100 hours of service during the year following your seminar. The purpose is to make a difference in your school, community, place of worship, or any other environment where you see a need.
- **Is this a live event?** Yes. The general sessions and breakouts are all live and require that the participant be available the entire time. We have built in frequent breaks for ambassadors to stretch, eat, rest, and move around.
- **Will I need to download any software or documents for the seminar?** HOBY Connect will have all of the information the ambassador will need (schedule, program book, links to Zoom calls and resources) and none of it requires a software download/installation. HOBY Connect works best with Chrome, Safari, or Firefox; it does not work well with Internet Explorer. You may want to download Zoom onto whatever device you'll be using for the video call sessions (you can create a free/basic account if you do not have one by [clicking here](#)). You may also choose to download the program book and other resources provided, but it is not required to complete the seminar.
- **What supplies do I need to participate in the seminar?** The virtual seminar is best experienced with a computer connected to reliable internet. You can also use mobile devices like tablets, iPads, or even your smart phone. We recommend being connected to Wi-Fi if you will be using a mobile device. Not necessary or required, but helpful to have would be headphones with a built-in microphone; students will be talking with their fellow ambassadors and their group leaders over video chats. A pen and paper may also be needed.

- **What if I have technical issues or need help accessing the virtual seminar?** You may contact Kelly Wald at [kellyjwald@gmail.com](mailto:kellyjwald@gmail.com) or call or text 701-321-1730.
- **Who pays for the seminar?** Your school or parent has paid a Registration Fee, or your fee has been sponsored.
- **What should I wear at the seminar?** Wear a comfortable t-shirt representing your school or community.
- **What if I am unable to attend the seminar?** If circumstances arise that prevent you from attending the entire seminar, we would like to allow another student to attend. Please notify your school who selected you, and follow up with an email to Kelly Wald, Volunteer Leadership Seminar Chair/Recruitment Director, at [kellyjwald@gmail.com](mailto:kellyjwald@gmail.com) or call or text 701-321-1730.
- **Who may I contact should I have additional questions?** Additional questions or concerns should be directed to Kelly Wald, Volunteer Leadership Seminar Chair/Recruitment Director, at [kellyjwald@gmail.com](mailto:kellyjwald@gmail.com) or call or text 701-321-1730.
- **What action should I take now?** With your parent or guardian, carefully review, complete, and sign the Formstack documents by **Friday, May 28, 2021**.