



NO KIDDING APPLICATION PACKET

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

No Kidding: Straight Talk from Teen Parents is a unique program that educates young people on the rights, responsibilities, and realities of teen parenting. Young fathers and mothers talk straight to their peers about what they wish they had been told before they had children — like stinky diapers and losing friends, to the serious legal and financial responsibilities — through fun and interactive presentations.

We are currently hiring young fathers and mothers to serve as No Kidding peer educators.

WHO WE'RE LOOKING FOR

You might make a great No Kidding peer educator if you . . .

- Became a parent at a young age
- Are the suggested ages of 16 – 24
- Are a loving and committed parent
- Have, are in the process of, or would like to establish legal paternity
- Interact responsibly with the child support system
- Want to share your story with your peers
- Are a U.S. citizen or possess a social security card

WHAT YOU GET OUT OF IT

As a peer educator you will . . .

- Feel good about enhancing your community by sharing your story with others
- Earn a monthly stipend based on the number of presentations you do
- Have the opportunity to earn money while gaining parenting and professional skills
- Receive training in paternity & child support law, public speaking, teaching and class management techniques, job skills, and leadership
- Enjoy the support of a close-knit group of other young parents
- Participate in an internship that will strengthen your resume

* *You do not have to be living with your child to qualify.*

WHAT TO DO IF YOU'RE INTERESTED

Complete the attached application and return to Jeni Brazeal by fax, mail, or hand delivery.

- Fax: 512.420.0058
- Address: 7756 Northcross Dr. Suite 203, Austin TX 78757
- Email: jbrazear@youthlaunch.org

For more information about the details of No Kidding please see the Frequently Asked Questions on the other side of this page or contact Jeni Brazeal at (512) 342-0424.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: JUNE 30, 2010

We include both fathers and mothers in the program. Participation as a No Kidding peer educator is voluntary, and we will recruit and hire eligible peer educators regardless of the applicants' race, gender, religion, ethnicity, national origin, or disability.

NO KIDDING: Straight Talk from Teen Parents

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is the purpose of No Kidding? The purpose of No Kidding is to educate youth about the rights, responsibilities, and realities of teen parenting so that they can make informed decisions related to parenting and relationship commitment. The peer educators promote responsible parenting while encouraging teenagers to delay parenting until they are financially and emotionally stable, and in a committed relationship.

What will I be presenting? As a No Kidding peer educator you will conduct fun, interactive presentations to middle and high school age youth. The presentations encourage the youth to explore how life changes when one becomes a parent and what ideal conditions should be in place before having a child. You will also teach about responsible fatherhood and paternity establishment, child support and the costs of child rearing, and related parenting issues. You will present this information by telling personal stories, explaining key information using posters and props, and leading activities and role-playing scenarios.

Who will I be presenting to? You will primarily be presenting to middle and high school age youth in both public school and community settings. Groups will be small and large.

Will I have to present alone? You will always be scheduled to present with at least one other peer educator, so you won't be in a classroom alone. Additionally, there will a staff person present at all presentations.

Will I have to talk about sex? No Kidding peer educators are not sex educators, and therefore do not address topics related to sex education.

How personal will my story have to be? You will need to be comfortable sharing some intimate details of your life with large and small audiences, although you will never be asked to share information that you don't want to share. In the past, some peer educators have talked about the pain of not having the child's father present in their lives, fears about being a good parent, grief over the end of a love relationship, and physical details about pregnancy and labor.

What if I don't know much about paternity establishment and child support? Don't worry, we will train you in the laws regarding child support and paternity establishment, as well as other curriculum details.

How much training will I receive? You will receive 40 hours of paid training on the curriculum, public speaking, paternity and child support law, how to tell your own story in a public setting, how to manage large groups, and how to be an effective member of a team.

What is the length of the internship? The internship begins with training during the summer months and ends with the close of the school year.

How often will I be doing presentations? The number of presentations you will be scheduled each month will vary depending on how many presentations have been scheduled, how many peer educators are hired each year, and your own availability. You will need to be flexible about when, how often, and where you are available to present.

Other than the presentations, what is the time commitment? You will be required to attend the summer training and 2 monthly Saturday morning team meetings for which you will be paid.

Will I have time to work another job or go to school? Yes, as long as there is no conflict with Saturday morning meetings and you are able to complete all presentations you commit to. In fact, we encourage you to pursue your education or have an additional job for income.

Do I have to be a good public speaker to apply? You do not need any prior experience in public speaking, however you will need to be comfortable with the idea of speaking to large groups. We will train you in the rest.

Can couples apply? We accept applications from all young fathers and mothers who began parenthood as a teen. We encourage both married and unmarried couples to apply although we cannot promise that both partners will be hired.

Is childcare provided? You may be eligible to receive a monthly childcare stipend to assist you with your childcare needs; however, you are responsible for arranging your own childcare during all work hours.

Is transportation provided? We do not provide transportation, and you will be responsible for getting to and from presentations, meetings, and events on your own. You will receive a monthly gas stipend to offset some of the costs of travel.

Will I get paid? You will receive a monthly stipend that covers training, presentations, team meetings, and other skills development hours you complete each month, in addition to the monthly gas card stipend.

NO KIDDING: Straight Talk from Teen Parents

APPLICATION PACKET CHECKLIST

PAGE 1

Thank you for your interest in becoming a No Kidding peer educator! This checklist will guide you through the application packet.

Application Form (see page 2)

Permission Form (see page 3)

Resume (you provide)

The resume will give us additional information about your experience and employment history, how you spend your time, and your achievements. Please include the following information:

- Educational history
- Employment history
- Current extracurricular activities and programs
- Any additional details you want us to know that are related to this program and/or position.

Cover letter (you provide)

Because this is our chance to hear the story of your young parenthood, this letter is the most important part of your application. Please be sure to answer the questions below in your cover letter.

- Did you plan the pregnancy? If so, why?
- Please describe your current relationship to the mother/father of your child.
- What has been the hardest part of being a young parent? What has been the best part?
- What assistance are you relying on to help support your child? Are you paying or receiving child support? Please explain your answer.
- What skills and talents do you possess that will help you be a great presenter and employee? What makes you unique?
- Based on what you know about being a young parent, would you recommend that other teenagers become parents? Please explain your answer.

Nomination Form A – from a supervisor/adult (see page 4)

Please ask an adult in a supervisory position to complete this form. This may be a teacher, employer, social worker, or other adult who can speak about why you are well qualified to be a No Kidding peer educator.

Nomination Form B – from a peer (see page 5)

Please ask a peer (a person your age) to complete this form. It is important for us to hear someone your age talk about what makes you relate effectively to your peers, so please choose someone who can speak to this. This person can also be the father or mother of your child.

ONCE YOUR APPLICATION IS COMPLETE, YOU MAY FAX, MAIL, OR HAND DELIVER TO JENI BRAZEAL.

Fax: 512.420.0058

Address: 7756 Northcross Dr. Suite 203, Austin TX 78757

Email: jbrazear@youthlaunch.org

If you have any questions or need assistance completing the application, please contact Jeni.

NO KIDDING: Straight Talk from Teen Parents

APPLICATION FORM

PAGE 2

Contact Information

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____ Email: _____

Phone: Day _____ Evening _____ Cell _____

Personal Information

Birth date: _____ Current Age: _____ Age at which you became a parent: _____

Ethnicity: _____ Spanish fluency: _____

U.S. Citizen? _____ If no, can you legally work in the United States? _____

Living Arrangements & Transportation

I live with (all): _____

My primary means of transportation is: my own vehicle which I drive Public Transportation Other: _____

Education *(Please check all that apply and provide the information requested)*

I am currently enrolled in high school as a: freshman sophomore junior senior G.E.D. Other: _____

Name of school/program: _____ Student ID: _____ GPA: _____

I am currently enrolled in college as a: freshman sophomore junior senior other: _____

Name of school & area of study: _____

I graduated from the following school/GED program:

Name of school/program: _____ Year Completed: _____

I have not received a high school diploma or GED, and I am not currently enrolled in any schools or programs.

Legal Guardianship *(Please check all that apply and provide the information requested)*

Legal Guardian's name: _____ Daytime phone: _____ Evening phone: _____

I no longer have a legal guardian because I am over age 18 emancipated married

If married, since when? _____ To whom? _____

References *(List two people who can comment on your abilities as an employee, public speaker, parent, or role model)*

Name: _____ Relationship: _____ Phone: _____

Name: _____ Relationship: _____ Phone: _____

Where did you hear about the No Kidding program? _____

NO KIDDING: Straight Talk from Teen Parents

PERMISSION FORM

PAGE 3

To be signed by both the applicant and his/her legal guardian, if the applicant is under 18. Otherwise to be signed by the applicant.

Permission to be in the Program

I understand that _____ (hereafter referred to as 'Intern') is applying to be a peer educator for the program No Kidding: Straight Talk from Teen Parents.

Permission to take Pictures

I consent that photographs, audio, or video recordings of Intern involved with No Kidding may be used by YouthLaunch, and their assignees or successors, in whatever way they desire, including television, news releases, web use, publications, videos, CD-ROMs, and any other form for the storage, retrieval, and reproduction of information and images, from which they are made their property, and they shall have the right to sell, duplicate, reproduce, and make other uses such as they desire, free and clear of any claim whatsoever on my part.

Permission to Access Paternity and Child Support Records

I give YouthLaunch and the Texas Attorney General's Office permission to access Intern's child support file and paternity establishment records. I understand that these files are being accessed for background information only and will not be released publicly.

Permission to Transport Intern

I give staff and representatives of YouthLaunch and the Texas Attorney General's Office permission to transport Intern in their personal or agency vehicles and excuse them of all liability for any threat or injury to Intern during such transportation.

Waiver of Liability

Should any injury occur to Intern during their association with YouthLaunch, or the Texas Attorney General's Office; or to Intern's children while in childcare during any activities or events engaged in as a part of Intern's relationship with both entities, I understand that these organizations will not be held liable and I agree that I will not seek any damages. In the instance of accident or injury, I give permission for First Aid and CPR certified staff to perform the necessary first aid and I understand and agree that the staff will not be held liable and I will not seek any damages.

Permission to Participate in Evaluation Study

In order to improve the quality of the program, YouthLaunch will be conducting an ongoing study of No Kidding. I understand that, if hired, Intern may be asked to participate in any or all of the following activities as part of this study: interviews, surveys, group discussions, and observations. Questions and observations will focus on the quality of the program and Intern's experiences as a peer educator. I understand that YouthLaunch may also request Intern's academic records from Intern's school district. This record may include attendance records, grades, test scores, demographic information, and discipline records. Any data collected will be kept confidential. Intern may decline to answer any questions he/she does not wish to answer without penalty. Copies of any of the study materials may be obtained from the No Kidding program coordinator.

Name of legal guardian (please print): _____

Signature of legal guardian: _____ Date: _____

Signature of Intern: _____ Date: _____

NO KIDDING: Straight Talk from Teen Parents

RECOMMENDATION FORM A

To be filled out by a supervisor or an adult not related to the applicant.

This is a recommendation for (name of applicant): _____

Your name (supervisor/adult): _____

Organization: _____ Job Title: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

I. How long have you known the applicant, and in what capacity?

II. Please rate the applicant in each of the characteristics below. Circle N/A by any to which you cannot speak.

	Weak		Average			Strong	
1. DEPENDABILITY	1	2	3	4	5	N/A	
2. ABILITY TO SPEAK ARTICULATELY	1	2	3	4	5	N/A	
3. LEADERSHIP	1	2	3	4	5	N/A	
4. FLEXIBILITY IN ADJUSTING TO NEW SITUATIONS	1	2	3	4	5	N/A	
5. SELF-CONFIDENCE	1	2	3	4	5	N/A	
6. HONESTY	1	2	3	4	5	N/A	
7. FUN-LOVING SENSE OF HUMOR	1	2	3	4	5	N/A	
8. TAKES PARENTING SERIOUSLY	1	2	3	4	5	N/A	
9. TEAM PLAYER	1	2	3	4	5	N/A	
10. RESPONSIBILITY	1	2	3	4	5	N/A	

III. Please pick three of the applicant's qualities as listed above, and give an example that explains why you chose the rating you did. Attach a separate sheet if necessary.

IV. On the back of this page, please include any additional comments about the applicant's ability to be an effective peer educator, public speaker, and role model regarding parenthood and related issues.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

NO KIDDING: Straight Talk from Teen Parents

RECOMMENDATION FORM B

PAGE 5

To be filled out by a peer.

This is a recommendation for (name of applicant): _____

Your name (peer): _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

I. How long have you known the applicant, and in what capacity?

II. Please rate the applicant in each of the characteristics below. Circle N/A by any to which you cannot speak.

	Weak		Average			Strong	
11. DEPENDABILITY	1	2	3	4	5	N/A	
12. ABILITY TO SPEAK ARTICULATEDLY	1	2	3	4	5	N/A	
13. LEADERSHIP	1	2	3	4	5	N/A	
14. FLEXIBILITY IN ADJUSTING TO NEW SITUATIONS	1	2	3	4	5	N/A	
15. SELF-CONFIDENCE	1	2	3	4	5	N/A	
16. HONESTY	1	2	3	4	5	N/A	
17. FUN-LOVING SENSE OF HUMOR	1	2	3	4	5	N/A	
18. TAKES PARENTING SERIOUSLY	1	2	3	4	5	N/A	
19. TEAM PLAYER	1	2	3	4	5	N/A	
20. RESPONSIBILITY	1	2	3	4	5	N/A	

III. Please pick three of the applicant's qualities as listed above, and give an example that explains why you chose the rating you did. Attach a separate sheet if necessary.

IV. On the back of this page, please include any additional comments about the applicant's ability to be an effective peer educator, public speaker, and role model regarding parenthood and related issues.

Signature: _____ Date: _____