

CHAPTER CONTEST RULES & REGULATIONS

- 1** Contestants must be at least 21 years of age and no more than 30 years of age by December 31 prior to the State Finals, held in conjunction with CrossState's Annual Convention in the spring.
- 2** Contestants must belong to a CrossState-affiliated credit union and must be sponsored by a chapter that has provided equal opportunity for its member credit unions to participate in the competition. Equal opportunity includes advance written notice of the chapter contest simultaneously given to all credit unions in a chapter area.
- 3** Each eligible chapter may be represented only by one contestant in the State Finals. If more than one contestant exists, a winner must be decided. For credit unions that have branches in other chapter areas or are associate chapter members, the credit union must decide on one candidate to represent them at only one chapter's competition.
- 4** Chapter contests must be held prior to January 29. Chapters should submit a completed Chapter Participation Form to CrossState indicating that they plan to hold a contest. Every credit union within the chapter must receive notice that a contest will be held.
- 5** Judging at the State Finals will be based on the following criteria: Credit Union Knowledge, Professionals Demeanor, and Ability to Communicate—each category is worth 100 points, for a total of 300 possible points. A portion of the judging at the State Finals will be based on a comprehensive written examination; one-on-one interviews between each contestant and judge; and an oral presentation before a credit union audience.
- 6** Individual credit unions and chapters may devise their own judging criteria or may use the State Finals criteria as a model. The criteria should include the candidates' knowledge of credit unions. In preparation for the State Finals, the credit union contest and chapter contest should give a candidate experience in speaking to an audience on a credit union-related subject.
- 7** If they so choose, individual credit unions and chapters may award prizes, cash or otherwise, to their winners at the end of a contest. Each credit union will be responsible for its candidate's expenses in connection with the chapter contest.
- 8** Winners of chapter contests become eligible for the State Finals, provided all rules have been properly observed.
- 9** Each chapter must provide the following: A completed biography form and photo release form for its candidate and a print-quality color photograph (digital 300 dpi, jpeg, or minimum size of 4" x 6") of its Chapter CU Ambassador.
- 10** Materials should be forwarded by January 29, 2021, to Credit Union Ambassador Contest Coordinator, Crossstate Credit Union Association, 4309 North Front Street, Harrisburg, PA 17110, or emailed to jkumpff@CrossState.org
- 11** The chapter is responsible for expenses incurred in connection with the State Finals. Chapter expenses at the State Finals include:
 - transportation to and from the convention;
 - hotel parking fees (if applicable);
 - meals; and
 - miscellaneous spending money
- 12** CrossState will make individual room reservations for all contestants for the state finals. Reservations for family members will not be made.
- 13** The winner of the state contest will hold the title of Credit Union Ambassador (unless revoked for cause) for one year, until a successor is selected at the following year's convention. A cash award will be presented to the CU Ambassador. The CU Ambassador is expected to attend official functions and make appearances as required to represent the title. CrossState will provide professional development opportunities to the winner as part of the prize package.

14 Individuals receiving the title of Credit Union Ambassador become ineligible to re-enter future contests. All participants in the State Finals may not compete during the immediate following year. After skipping one year, participants in the State Finals may compete again for the title, after repeating the process of being sponsored by a credit union and a chapter, as long as they meet age requirements.

15 Ineligible to participate at any level of the competition are employees and directors of CrossState and its affiliated organizations, and members of their immediate families. Staff members of the Association and its affiliates are prohibited from serving as judges of any CU Ambassador Contest (including Chapter contests) in the state.

These rules are specific for Chapter Credit Union Ambassador contests. There is a virtual entry process for individuals whose credit union does not participate in a local chapter, and a set of rules specific to the virtual contest has also been created.

STATE CONTEST AWARD

- \$1,000 CASH PRIZE
- Registration to Judge/Bradley Leadership School
- Fall Leadership Conference
- Annual Convention
- Honorary Emerging Leaders Council Member
- And more!



HISTORY & PURPOSE

The Credit Union Ambassador Contest (formerly the Youth Ambassador Contest) is an opportunity to advance the careers of emerging professionals ages 21-30 in the credit union movement and provide a platform to tell their story.

The contest has evolved from the Miss Credit Union Contest to the Youth Ambassador Contest, and now the Credit Union Ambassador Contest. Since its inception, hundreds of young people have learned more about the credit union movement, while advancing their future as leaders. Many former contestants have achieved success in professional positions within their credit unions.

QUESTIONS?

Contact Jessilyn Kumpf at 717-839-2250
or by emailing jkumpf@CrossState.org