

## Prospective CAAAN Volunteers' FAQ

### **What is the Cornell Alumni Admissions Ambassador Network (CAAAN)?**

CAAAN is a group of over 10,000 proud alumni who serve as enthusiastic ambassadors to prospective students in the United States and at least 50 nations around the world. Ambassadors conduct individual contact meetings with prospective students to answer any questions they may have about Cornell and provide their unique perspective on student life on the hill. This meeting between the Ambassador and prospective student provides valuable insight that helps the student determine whether Cornell is a great fit for their undergraduate education.

### **How do I become involved in the Cornell Alumni Admissions Ambassador Network (CAAAN) program?**

If you are interested in serving as a Cornell Alumni Admissions Ambassador, please verify your eligibility using the document on the website, confirm you have your NetID and password, and then complete the [new CAAAN membership form](#). You will be asked to provide information that will be used to assign you to the CAAAN committee in your local area or to a virtual committee. After signing up, you will be contacted by a CAAAN chair to get you oriented with the CAAAN program and any important items specific to the area where you will serve.

### **What is the time commitment for serving as a CAAAN Volunteer?**

The time commitment of a Cornell Alumni Admissions Ambassador varies among CAAAN Committees. The number of prospective students that you will be assigned will also vary between CAAAN Committees. Contact meetings begin in October for Early Decision applicants and run through late February. CAAAN Chairs understand that our alums have very busy lives and will work with you to find the right balance that works for you.

### **Are there other ways to become involved with the CAAAN program if I am unable to commit to performing contact meetings?**

Yes, if you are not available to conduct contact meetings during all or part of the application cycle, there are opportunities to become active in the admissions process by volunteering for other admissions events. These events include college fairs, receptions, and information sessions. If you are interested in participating in this capacity, please join CAAAN and then communicate with your committee chair regarding your availability and types of events that interest you.

### **Can I participate in the CAAAN program if I have high-school aged children?**

Yes, you can participate in the CAAAN program if you have high-school aged children. However, we require that you take a sabbatical during application cycles when you have a child applying

for admission to Cornell. Please reach out to your committee's chair or [caaan@cornell.edu](mailto:caaan@cornell.edu) if you have specific questions on when you should take a sabbatical.

To avoid the appearance of conflicts of interest we ask that you refrain from conducting individual contact meetings with students from the same high school as your children.

**Is there training available to CAAAN volunteers?**

Once you sign up and are added to a CAAAN Committee, the chair will reach out to you to get you oriented with the CAAAN program. They will direct you to a plethora of materials that should be reviewed to understand how to perform your role in the CAAAN program. They will also serve as a resource for you to turn to if you have any additional questions that were not answered through the training documents. There are also periodic CAAAN-wide trainings tailored to volunteers of virtual committees that will allow you to stay abreast of important updates.

**Can I specify that I meet only with applicants from certain undergraduate colleges/schools or majors?**

Please let your CAAAN Committee Chair know if you have any preferences on how you would like to be assigned prospective students to contact. CAAAN Committee Chairs do their best to match prospective students with Ambassadors that have something in common as this is a great way to facilitate organic conversations. If your Chair is unable to fulfill your preference when assigning prospective students, the training provided will more than prepare you for conducting the contact meeting.