





Fran Gilman shares insight into the fundamentals of a brand ambassador programme

# How do you encourage member sign up?



### Set long-term objectives

If you know what you are aiming to achieve it will make the sign-up more attractive to potential ambassadors.



#### Communicate the benefits

Make your programme attractive and clearly communicate the benefits to new recruits such as career progression, recognition etc.



#### Plan a social event

Get your ambassadors together to meet one another and start to build a community of like-minded people.

# What makes a good brand ambassador?



### Define 'what good looks like'

Align what you want to achieve with your programme objectives and work together to get there.



### **Dynamic individuals**

You want to find charismatic, driven self-starters who aspire to be heard and seen amongst their peers and community.



#### Commitment

Be committed to your ambassadors as a brand and they will return the loyalty with true brand advocacy.

# How do you engage with brand ambassadors?



### Create a community

The most important element of any programme is to build a community with clear two-way channels of communication.



#### Content rich channels

Select the most appropriate mix of channels relevant to your messaging and objectives i.e. app, website, social or face to face events.



#### **Be authentic**

Don't ask too much from people and ensure that ambassadors are being heard by your brand.

# What does good engagement look like?



### Membership criteria

Treat it like a subscription where ambassadors need to show a base level of interaction in order to keep their place.



### **Engagement levels**

Measure participation and activity levels but understand you need to be flexible and adapt to market and competitor changes.



#### Welcome feedback

Individuals are more likely to engage with a brand which they feel listens to them - it might even spark a new idea!

# How to do manage and validate ambassadors?



#### Collaborate

If your ambassadors are nondirect employees then ensure all parties are onboard along with the necessary paperwork.



### **Data sharing**

Identify what data needs to be shared between parties, including performance data, for your programme to be a success.



#### Open dialogue

Have a direct communication channel open between you and the ambassador to ensure they deliver what you want.

# What are the risks and what could go wrong?



#### It can take time

Sales may not increase straight away, focus on building a community of loyal fans who love your brand.



#### **Communication breakdown**

Do your homework and plan effectively to keep all communication positive and mutually beneficial for all parties involved.



### The wrong people

You need to be able to manage your ambassador base, have a process to remove people from the programme should you need to.



# How do you measure the success of the programme?



### Performance tracking

Setting your base membership criteria gives you a basis on which to track and monitor ambassador performance.



### **Programme maturity**

Insight will be gained from the six month mark so ensure you have time and budget to run effectively - this is a long term programme.



#### Keep pushing

For those going great, implement stretch targets to keep pushing forward and maximise return on investment.

# Next steps...

You've gained insight into how to run a successful brand amabssador programme, here's what to do next:



## Write a draft plan

Discuss objectives with internal stakeholders.



# **Engage externally**

Secure buy-in from all external parties.



### Write a brief

What areas do you need an agency to support on?



#### Get in touch

To create a successful brand ambassaor programme together.

