

Contact STRIVE:
strive_study@ncsu.edu
919-515-7639



STRIVE Program Ambassador Packet

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Why STRIVE?

STRIVE (Southern Liver Health Study) is a team effort between NCSU, UNC Chapel Hill, Duke University, and Emory University in Atlanta. STRIVE is funded by the National Institute of Health.

- STRIVE does not provide screenings or medical care to participants.
- By being part of STRIVE, you can help doctors and scientists learn how to prevent, find, and treat liver disease and liver cancer.

The goal of STRIVE is to learn **why** liver cancer is increasing, especially in minorities and people living in the southern United States. Also, scientists want to fight liver cancer by **making new tools** to find liver cancer early, before people become very sick.

If you decide to join STRIVE, you will help us learn how the chemicals around us impact our health over a long period of time, and you will help us learn what causes liver cancer. We welcome your partnership as a Participant and/or Ambassador.

Eligible Participants: Are ages 40-75, plan to live in North Carolina or Georgia for at least the next year, and have never had liver cancer. To join STRIVE as a participant, contact the STRIVE team (strive_study@ncsu.edu, 919-515-7639).

Eligible Ambassadors: Ambassadors tell others about the STRIVE study to see if they would like to participate. Ambassadors are 18 years and older who schedule and complete an orientation (in person, by video call, or by phone) with STRIVE staff, and who agree to follow the ambassador guidelines. Ambassadors do not have to be STRIVE study participants. Ambassadors are encouraged to attend at least one Ambassador Capacity Building or training session – in person or virtually– each year. To join STRIVE as an ambassador, contact the STRIVE team (strive_study@ncsu.edu, 919-515-7639) or contact the Ambassador Coordinator, Linda Riggins (lriggin@ncsu.edu, 919-610-0364).

Ambassadors may end their involvement at any time by informing the Ambassador Coordinator (Linda Riggins, lriggin@ncsu.edu, 919-610-0364). Study participants may stop participation at any time by informing the STRIVE team (strive_study@ncsu.edu, 919-515-7639).

Compensation for STRIVE participants who have consented to join the study and their ambassadors is through select merchant gift cards (examples include Target, Walmart, and Food Lion). Eligible Participants are compensated directly with a \$50 gift card at the end of each Study Period (every 1-2 years).

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Ambassadors are compensated by mail with a \$25 gift card for each new consented participant (postmarked by the 10th of the following month). For example, if a participant consented on March 15th, the ambassador who recruited that consented participant will be compensated by April 10th. Ambassadors may be compensated a maximum of \$500 per year.

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STRIVE Ambassador Agreement Form- Ambassador's Copy

The goal of the STRIVE study is to learn more about liver disease and liver cancer. Ambassadors will tell others about the STRIVE study so that they can choose whether/how to participate in STRIVE. Participants who decide to enroll will be credited to the ambassador who first told them about the STRIVE study.

Ambassador's Name: _____ Orientation Date: _____

Ambassador's Phone: _____ Email: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

How do you prefer we contact you (circle one or more)? phone call text email

These expectations have been discussed with you by: _____

Please read the following expectations and sign your initials next to each one to show that you have read and understand them:

STRIVE Staff Member Expectations:

_____ I will treat participants and ambassadors fairly and with respect. I will value their time and respond to questions as soon as I am able.

_____ I will share accurate information about the study with others.

_____ I will never pressure or coerce someone to join the study.

_____ I will follow all study rules, including protecting participant confidentiality. I will not share any information about participants with ambassadors.

_____ I will aim to compensate ambassadors by the 10th of each month (postmarked by the 10th) for the consented recruits enrolled the previous month.

STRIVE Staff Member

Ambassador expectations:

Today's Date

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_____ I will treat participants, other ambassadors, and STRIVE staff fairly and with respect.

_____ I will share accurate information about the study with others.

_____ I will never pressure or coerce someone to join the study.

_____ I will keep all information I learn about others while in my role as an ambassador (like name, contact information, health information, and whether they sign up for the STRIVE study) private. I will not share this information with anyone else, including STRIVE staff.

_____ I will not ask others whether they signed up for the study. I will not ask STRIVE staff for information about participants. I understand that STRIVE staff are not allowed to share any information about participants, including who has signed up for the study, with me.

_____ I understand that I will receive \$25 per referral. I understand that I will only be compensated for referrals who are **a)** eligible to participate, **b)** who choose to consent/join the study, **and c)** who list me as their ambassador.

The type of gift card I prefer is (circle one or more): Food Lion Walmart Target Amazon

_____ I understand that the most I may earn as an ambassador is \$500 per year. Ambassadors who want to keep recruiting after earning \$500 may do so, but will not be compensated more than \$500 per year for their role as an ambassador.

_____ I understand that STRIVE staff will try to compensate ambassadors by the 10th of each month (postmarked by the 10th) for the recruits enrolled during the month before. I understand that it is my responsibility to update the STRIVE team if my address, phone number, or gift card preference changes.

Signing this ambassador agreement form means that I have read, that I understand, and that I will follow these guidelines. If I fail to follow these guidelines, I understand that I may receive notice of my removal as a STRIVE Ambassador.

Ambassador

Today's Date

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Ambassador

Today's Date



Ambassador Guidelines

Here is some information about STRIVE and the ambassador program:

- We are using *snowball sampling* to include more participants. In snowball sampling, ambassadors tell people they know about the study to see if they would like to participate.
- STRIVE is a research study. We do not provide screenings or medical care to participants.
- You do not have to participate in STRIVE, and you can stop participating at any time, for any reason. Whether to start or continue participating is completely up to you.

Why?

- A goal of STRIVE is to develop tools to help prevent and treat liver disease and liver cancer.
- We want the tools we develop to be useful for everyone (regardless of race/ethnicity, where they live, gender/sex, etc.)
- In order for these tools to work for diverse groups of people, we need diverse groups of people to help develop these tools!

How do I recruit someone?

- Share information about STRIVE (send them to our website, give them a flyer, speak to them, etc.) **You can use the scripts on the next page to tell them about the study.**
 - Answer their questions, or refer their questions to the STRIVE study team.
- You may use the provided ambassador stickers to remind participants of your name. If someone decides to participate, they should contact the study team and mention the name of the ambassador who recruited them.
 - **You should not send STRIVE staff their names or contact information. The participant must contact us directly to sign up.**
 - When people join the study, the STRIVE team will ask who their ambassador was/ who recruited them. We will track that information, and will pay you \$25 for each person you referred who joined the study.

Our top priority is the safety and privacy of participants. If you have any questions, please let us know.

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- For general questions about STRIVE, recruitment, materials, the ambassador program, etc. please contact: call: 919-515-7639, call/text: 919-610-0364, email: strive_study@ncsu.edu
- For issues related to STRIVE or the ambassador program, please contact call: 919-515-7639, call/text: 919-610-0364, email: strive_study@ncsu.edu
- To report ethical or privacy concerns, ambassadors or participants may contact the NCSU IRB (Institutional Review Board) office at IRB-Director@ncsu.edu, 919-515-8754, or fill out a confidential form online at <https://research.ncsu.edu/administration/participant-concern-and-complaint-form/>



Ambassador Scripts

If by phone/ in person:

- [if by phone] Ambassador: Hello, this is [insert ambassador name]. May I please speak to [insert potential participant name]? I am calling from the Southern Liver Health/ STRIVE study.
- [if in person] Hello, my name is [insert ambassador name].
 - *I'm calling/ I wanted to let you know* about an opportunity for you to make a difference in cancer research by being in a study.
 - *I'm calling/ I wanted to ask for your help with a public health study/ a study about cancer research*
 - *I'm calling/ I wanted to tell you about a research study examining liver cancer and exposure to heavy metals.*
- If participant is interested, tell them:
 - Liver cancer is one of the fastest rising cancers. More than half of cases are diagnosed before age 65 which makes it even more devastating.
 - Your participation in this research study could help scientists and doctors prevent liver cancer. In order to succeed, the study needs a diverse group of individuals. The study will pay you **[optional: insert amount/ \$50]** for participating.
 - I am an ambassador for the study, and am letting people know more about the STRIVE study and how to sign up.
 - The study involves a brief visit every 1-2 years, which includes a survey, some home samples (like water and dust) and collecting saliva, urine, blood. You do not have to participate in this study. If you do participate, you can leave the study at any time, for any reason.
 - Do you think you might be interested in participating?
- **If no, thank them and end the conversation.**
- **If they are interested:**
 - Great! To sign up, you can:
 - Call 919-515-7639
 - Call or text 919-610-0364
 - Email strive_study@ncsu.edu
 - Visit strive.wordpress.ncsu.edu
 - Please mention you were recruited by/ the name of your ambassador was [insert name]. Thank you!

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If by answering machine:

Hello. This is [insert name] with the Southern Liver Health Study. I am calling for [insert name]. We are looking for people who want to make a difference by participating in a research study. *[Insert call back name and phone number, or say "I will try calling again at a later time."]*