Winnebago County 4-H
Interstate Exchange Program
Youth & Parents or Guardians

Goals

1. To provide an intercultural experience for 4-H members (minimum grade of 7th at start of program) and leaders that will broaden their understanding of:
   - Other ways of life
   - 4-H in other states
   - Agriculture, geography, culture, history and industry in other parts of the country
2. To provide 4-Hers with broadening experience in travel and personal development including:
   - Develop leadership and responsibility
   - Develop citizenship through concern and consideration of others
   - Develop understanding of individual and group decision-making processes
   - Develop ability to manage time, money and energy, and set hosting/traveling schedule
3. To stimulate greater interest in the 4-H program
4. To learn more about themselves by sharing experiences; family, community, state customs; and personal values with other 4-H members and families.

Time Expectations for Youth & Parents or Guardians

1. Interstate Exchange is a 2-year commitment, with youth/families hosting one summer and youth traveling the other. Hosting/traveling will be determined once matched with the exchange county.
2. Traveling and hosting are approximately one week.
3. Meetings are held approximately monthly to plan for fundraising, traveling &/or hosting plans.
4. A few mandatory meetings for youth and their parents/guardians will be held: at the beginning of each year of interstate and just prior to hosting and traveling. Youth and their parents/guardians must attend OR make arrangements to follow-up with the material missed.
5. Fundraisers are held throughout each year: one year for hosting expenses and one year for traveling expenses. Youth and/or their parents/guardians are expected to work fundraisers.
6. Each host family is expected to help with a minimum of 1 day during the week for chaperoning, transporting, etc.

Behavior Expectations for Youth & Parents or Guardians

During the Exchange Years - Remember that you are representing the Winnebago County 4-H Youth Development program, your family, and yourself.

1. Cooperate with the exchange advisors’ and 4-H staff’s leadership. Contact the advisor(s) with questions or conflicts.
2. Use good judgment in selecting clothing appropriate for weather and occasion, following any established dress code. Clothing that is revealing or with obscene language/picture or with pictures with drug, tobacco, or alcohol advertising is never allowed.
3. Responsible, mature conduct is expected of participants and adults during this exchange.
4. Obey all applicable federal, state, and municipal laws including prohibited use or possession of alcoholic beverages, illegal drugs, and tobacco.
5. Respect public and private property.
6. Do not use language found to be objectionable by other members or advisors.
7. Behave in a non-threatening way and do not possess or use any type of weapon.
8. Refrain from participating in initiation ceremonies, hazing, harassment, and other behaviors that involve humiliation or embarrassing another person. Such activities will not be tolerated.
9. Sexual contact of any type is strictly forbidden. Any behaviors considered in violation of the Wisconsin child abuse and sexual assault laws are grounds for suspension of affiliation until investigation is complete.

**Financial Obligations**

1. The families will agree upon the mode of travel during the travel year and understand the obligation the cost of travel is for their family. *Based on the state and the activities chosen, the cost per delegate has ranged from $825 to $1100 in recent exchanges.*
2. During the host year transportation is to be arranged for the group to travel together when traveling outside of the county and fund raisers will cover the costs.
3. Cost of group meals and events for the Winnebago County 4-H member and their guest will be covered. *Cost of meals of family members is the responsibility of the family.*
4. A record will be kept of fund raising participation.
5. *During the hosting year, if you state you are going to the event and a ticket is purchased in advance for you, you have to pay the group back.*
6. By December 31 of the second year of the Interstate Exchange all expenses to be paid through fund raisers or by personal payment by those participating.

**Other Expectations to Note**

1. For host families, everyone in the household over the age of 18 must be a 4-H leader or attend a host family orientation. The orientation includes a background check.
2. Minimum age to drive as part of the exchange is 21. This means that teens will not be allowed to drive other teens. Also, when traveling youth and adults should refrain from riding with drivers under 21 years of age.
3. *Individuals are not allowed to drive vehicles that are not personally owned by their family.*
4. While hosting and travelling, participate in the set group activities. Other time is to be spent with the individual family. Remember, this is not a vacation, but a chance to experience life with another family.
5. Refrain from overuse and misuse of electronic devices including cell phones and computers during exchange.
6. Homes must be deemed appropriate in order to host.
7. During the host year, if you are unable to attend an event which requires advance purchase of tickets and you requested a ticket be purchased for you, you are to reimburse the Exchange group even if you worked fundraiser(s).

**Chaperones**

1. For travelling, there are to be a minimum of two chaperones. If there are both male and female members in the exchange group, there will be both a male and a female chaperone.
2. Chaperones are to be a minimum of 25 years of age.
3. Chaperones must be a 4-H Leader which requires enrollment, a background check and participation in volunteer orientation prior to being selected.
4. Potential chaperones not currently 4-H leaders will have a background check before selection. Selected chaperones not currently 4-H leaders must attend 4-H New Leader Orientation prior to travel.

**Participants and their families understand the advisor & adult chaperone’s role is:**

1. To serve as an advocate for the participants.
2. To maintain regular contact with participants to monitor health, attitude, problem situations, behavior, etc.
3. To be aware of all prescription medication, but not to dispense medication.
4. To be aware of all allergies, health concerns/handicap from profile/health sheet.
5. To make appropriate decisions in emergency situations to enhance the health and well-being of the participants.

6. To determine the incidence of inappropriate behavior and take appropriate actions as follows:
   - Inform parents and local Extension personnel of misbehavior at time of incidence if chaperone feels severity of situation warrants such immediate notification &/or to follow-up after the incidence.

**Consequences of disciplinary action:**

1. Families of youth removed from the program will be responsible for the cost of the youth's transportation, including travel fares and supplemental "Unaccompanied Child" fares, expenses for a chaperone, and/or loss of group travel deposit fees. Event registration, lodging or other participant fees will not be reimbursed.

2. If damage/destruction of public or private property occurred, youth will be assessed for the cost of damages and repairs.

3. Disciplinary action may result in restricted opportunity to participate in future 4-H related activities for the involved youth.

4. Youth who break public laws will be dismissed from the program and will be subject to legal action by law enforcement authorities.

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**Youth Statement of Agreement:**

I have read and understand this Expectation Agreement and will abide by it.

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<tr>
<th>PRINT Youth Participant's Name</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Year One</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Year Two</th>
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<th>Youth Participant’s Signature</th>
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<th>Year One</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Year Two</th>
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**Parent/Guardian Statement of Agreement:**

I have read and understand the rules and penalties in this agreement and agree to be bound by them. In addition, I understand that participants of this event are occasionally photographed and/or videotaped for 4-H promotional or educational materials. I also understand that no personal information about the participant, such as name, age or address, will be used with photos or videos in promotional program materials. I give my permission to UW-Extension to use such images of this participant without any expectation of compensation.

My child has permission to participate in all events, including water related/water park activities; horse-back riding and other horse related activities following the Wisconsin State 4-H Policy with SEI approved helmets, appropriate shoes/boots and clothing.

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<tr>
<th>PRINT Parent/Guardian’s Name</th>
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<th>Year Two</th>
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Address and telephone where parent or guardian can be reached during this program:
The 4-H Board of Directors reserves the right to enforce these guidelines for the safety of the group in cooperation with Exchange Advisors and the 4-H Youth Development Educator.

Revisions approved by the Winnebago County 4-H Board of Directors 17 November 2009.
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