

2024 4-H American Spirit Experience Planning Committee /Adult Advisor Description

Purpose: The purpose of the 4-H American Spirit Experience is: 1. To provide a learning experience to increase knowledge and understanding of America's heritage. 2. To build awareness of the many steps taken to gain U.S. independence and freedom. 3. To further develop skills in leadership and personal expression of values. 4. To increase youths' awareness of self in relationship to other group members. 5. To identify one or more ways to share what youth have learned with their clubs and counties.

Responsibilities: Planning committee members are responsible for budgeting, maintaining, and organizing the 4-H American Spirit experience. They also facilitate orientation for all delegates and share responsibilities for chaperoning, teaching, and administering the 4-H American Spirit experience annually. Adult Advisors for the experience are selected from experienced members of the planning committee. Female and male advisor numbers will vary based on how many delegates counties send each year. Committee members are not guaranteed the opportunity to travel.

One adult advisor serves as the First Aid administrator during each week of travel. This committee member's responsibilities include reviewing health forms and maintaining/administering medications throughout the travel experience. Additional training and certification may be required. A registered nurse, physician, physician's assistant, practical nurse, national athletic trainers association certified trainer, emergency medical services practitioner, or certified wilderness first aid practitioner are the minimum training requirements for this advisor

Time Required: Adult members of the planning committee serve for a minimum of two years. This allows for continuity in planning and committee sustainability. (You are not required to travel both years.) Committee members are expected to attend all planning meetings.

The planning committee meets via Zoom throughout the year, including these regularly scheduled meetings:

- Planning meetings are typically in August, October, December, January, February, March, and April
- 4-H American Spirit Experience – 9 days in June

Expectations of Adult Advisors:

- Applicants must be in good physical condition to withstand the rigors associated with the program. Expect much walking on hard surfaces, handling luggage, and sharing a sleeping room. Sleep deficit is common.
- Expect long periods of riding on a bus.
- Participants may experience high temperatures with humidity.
- Public speaking is required.
- Adult leaders must work cooperatively with fellow team members and remain with the delegation at all times during the program.
- Participation in the planning committee and at least one in-person orientation is mandatory.

Qualifications:

- The leadership team is open to any youth or adult interested in the development of 4-H American Spirit.

- Adult Planning Committee members must participate in the Youth Protection Program and be enrolled as a 4-H Volunteer Leader.
- To be the adult advisor responsible for First Aid, the committee member must be an adult and be First Aid certified or a medical professional (R.N., physician, etc.).
- **Motivation.** An applicant's first and foremost reason for applying must be motivated by a genuine desire to lead a youth group; attending to the group's welfare and education, not for a vacation or to experience a son or daughter's program.
- **Experience.** An applicant must have previous experience chaperoning local, county, district or state overnight or extended programs, whether for 4-H, school, Scouts, or other youth groups.
- **Gender.** Youth must be represented by adults of their same gender and adults will be selected in proportion to the ratio of boys/girls participating in the experience.
- **Interpersonal communication.** Leaders must be team players who work together.
- **Leadership ability.** Effective teams unify a variety of talents: organization, "people skills", guiding, etc.
- **Sense of humor!** A vital part of an intense youth experience is having fun, both for youth and adults.

Contacts: Sarah Tarjeson, 4-H Youth Development Educator, Sheboygan County UW-Extension, 5 University Drive, Sheboygan, WI 53081 (920) 459-5903 and sarah.tarjeson@wisc.edu or Amber Rehberg, Area Extension Director, Oneida, Florence, Forest Counties (715) 820-0810 or amber.rehberg@wisc.edu.

**2023 4-H American Spirit Experience
Planning Committee/Adult Advisor Application**

Please complete the questions below. They are a tool intended to help the planning committee bring together a strong American Spirit Adult Advisor Team and a tool for your own reflection. (Please attach additional pages if needed.)

Full Name: _____ County: _____

Phone Number: _____ E-mail: _____

Birth Date: _____

Are you enrolled as a 4-H Volunteer Leader? ____ Yes ____ No

Have you completed: 4-H VIP Training? ____ Yes ____ No

Online Mandated Reporter Training Modules ____ Yes ____ No

Title IX Training (online or paper form) ____ Yes ____ No

Building Safe Spaces Training ____ Yes ____ No

1) *Please share why you are interested in serving as an adult advisor for the American Spirit Experience and participating in the planning committee.*

2) *What skills, gifts, talents, and/or certifications do you bring to the American Spirit Experience Advisor/Adult Advisor Position? How will you use your skills, gifts, talents, and certifications to ensure the youth participants have a meaningful experience and that the advisor team is successful?*

3) *What other 4-H or non-4-H experiences have you advised? What 4-H or non-4-H travel experiences have prepared you to be a part of this committee?*

4) *What do you think will be the greatest challenge for you in planning, chaperoning, and advising this experience? Do you have any concerns about travel (motion sickness, etc.)?*

5) *What do you think will be the best part of planning, chaperoning, and advising this experience?*

Reference (4-H Youth Development Educator or other UW-Madison, Extension Staff)

***Extension Staff, please confirm this volunteer meets the age and training minimal requirements for 4-H Adult Chaperones. Your signature below confirms that these are complete or in progress.

Print Name: _____ Phone Number: _____

Signature of Staff: _____ Email: _____

Please obtain the educator's signature and e-mail your responses to the above questions to Sarah Tarjeson at sarah.tarjeson@wisc.edu