

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

**Purpose:** The purpose of the 4-H American Spirit experience is:

1. **Enhance Historical Knowledge:** Participants will deepen their understanding of American history by visiting significant historical sites and learning about key events and figures.
2. **Promote Cultural Awareness:** Participants will gain exposure to diverse cultural experiences and perspectives, fostering a greater appreciation for the diversity that shapes our nation.
3. **Develop Leadership Skills:** Through leading content and activities, participants will build and refine their leadership abilities, preparing them for future roles in their communities and careers.
4. **Foster Career Readiness:** The program will provide opportunities for participants to explore career paths and develop skills that are essential for future employment, such as teamwork, communication, and problem-solving.
5. **Build Positive Relationships:** Participants will form meaningful connections with adults and peers from across the state, creating a supportive network and enhancing their social capital.

**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, maintaining/administering medications throughout the travel experience, and documenting all health interactions in the Health Log. 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. May or may not travel. Committee members are expected to attend all planning meetings.

The planning committee meets via Zoom throughout the year.

- Planning meetings are held in the evenings in August, October, November, December, January, February & April
- Delegate orientations are held in March
- 4-H American Spirit Experience – 9 days in June and 9 days in July

**Expectations of Chaperones/Adult Advisors:**

- Applicants must be in good physical condition to withstand 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 adult advisor team members and remain with the delegation at all times during the program.
- Participation in the planning committee and at 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.
- **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.
- **Interpersonal Communication.** Leaders must be team players who focus on positive youth development and 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.

**Contact Person:** Amber Rehberg, Area 4 Extension Director at 715.820.0810 or [amber.rehberg@wisc.edu](mailto:amber.rehberg@wisc.edu).

**WI 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. (You may 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

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

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

**3) What other 4-H or non 4-H experiences have you chaperoned? 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?**

**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 Advisors/Chaperones. Your signature below confirms that there are complete or in progress.**

**Print Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature of Staff:** \_\_\_\_\_ **E-mail Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

*Please obtain the educator's signature and e-mail your responses to the above questions to  
Amber Rehberg at [amber.rehberg@wisc.edu](mailto:amber.rehberg@wisc.edu).*