

2007-2008 Southwest Iowa Area 4-H Council

Purpose:

The purpose of the SW Iowa Area 4-H Council is to provide significant leadership development experiences for teens. Members of the Council will be involved in identifying needs, sharing ideas, and developing a plan on action to help address priority needs. In addition, the Council will assist in overall 4-H and Youth program development by serving in an advisory capacity to staff.

Members of the Area 4-H Council will:

- Be involved in identifying strategies to address needs of youth and of the 4-H program in SW Iowa.
- Work to strengthen the youth program by developing activities/educational events to meet critical youth needs.
- Help to secure resources for programming.
- Interact with one another to share ideas that can help improve local 4-H clubs, county 4-H programs and area participation.
- Develop new friendships and develop a support network.
- Develop and practice using communication and leadership skills.
- Serve as a link between county, area, and state 4-H programs.
- Serve in an advisory capacity for youth programming in the area.
- Work with a county cluster planning group to plan an area wide event or activity.

Expectations of the Area 4-H Council:

- Devote approximately 40-60 hours between November and August to Council work.
- Attend fall organizational retreat the weekend of **November 10-11, 2007**.
- Be willing to share ideas and listen to the ideas of others.
- Be committed to gathering input from others and involving others in developing and implementing an action plan.
- Be willing to arrange your schedule to participate in meetings and activities of the Council.
- Pay own expenses related to participation in the Council (i.e. transportation).

Composition of the Area 4-H Council:

- Each county may select two representatives to serve on the SW Iowa Area 4-H Council.
- The council will meet at a retreat on **November 10th and 11th**. Additional group meetings will be scheduled as needed to carry out the goals of the council. An additional retreat may be scheduled by the group in the winter 2008.
- Final retreat may be an overnight experience volunteering at the Iowa State Fair, Aug. 2008. (This was very fun and successful in 2007.)
- An application process will be used at the county level to select their representatives. Each representative must be in high school and must complete a written application. Each representative must also submit one letter of recommendation from either a county Extension staff member, a teacher, clergy member or another non-relative adult.
- State 4-H Council members and Iowa Youth Technology team members from Southwest Iowa will be invited to participate in the Area Council. They must complete and submit an

application by the deadline if they wish to accept the invitation to participate. They will not be counted as one of the two county representatives. However, counties must pay the membership fee for these youth. State 4-H Council and Iowa Technology Team members will submit their applications to the county Extension office. The county Extension office will forward those applications to Mary Kramer along with their additional county selections.

- **The applications and letters of recommendation of the selected representatives, State 4-H Council members, and Iowa Technology Team members must be forwarded to Mary Kramer at the West Pottawattamie County Extension Office by September 28, 2007.**

Expectations of Participating Counties:

- Recruit and select two participants to represent your county on the team by **Friday, September 28, 2007**. Forward completed applications and letter of recommendation to **Mary Kramer** by this date.
- Pay a fee of \$20/member for each representative from your county, including State Council members and Iowa Youth Technology Team members to help pay the costs associated with the team.
- Provide members an opportunity to share information from the team within your county.
- Assist in marketing programming opportunities to share information from the team within your county.
- Assist in recruiting adults who meet the Child Protection standards to chaperone events planned by the Area Council.
- Provide space for meetings when appropriate.
- Provide paid staff to assist in one area council program effort during the year if requested.

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Application Form

Name _____ County _____

Address _____ Town _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Cell Phone _____

Parent(s)/Guardian(s) _____

Grade in School _____ School _____

Briefly describe your leadership experiences in 4-H.

Briefly describe your leadership experiences outside of 4-H.

Why do you want to be part of the SW Iowa 4-H Area Council?

List one specific leadership skill you'd personally like to strengthen during the next year and explain why.

What topics or issues would you like to see the Area Council address?

Are you willing to commit 40-60 hours between November and August, to help strengthen the 4-H and Youth program in our area? Yes No

Will you be able to attend the first retreat scheduled for November 10-11, 2007? Yes No

Are you willing to share ideas and listen to the ideas of others? Yes No

Are you committed to gathering input from others? Yes No

Are you open to using communication techniques such as email, instant messaging and ICN? Yes No

Are you willing to find your own transportation to group activities? Yes No

Are you committed to arranging your schedule to participate in the meeting and activities of the Area Council? Yes No

Please indicate which, if any, of these you are a part of:

County Council

2007-2008 State 4-H Council

2006-2007 Area 4-H Council

2007-2008 Iowa Youth Technology Team

Return this completed form and a letter of recommendation from a non-relative adult to your County Extension Office by

(Fill in date)