

## **2008-2009 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 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>, 2008**
- 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 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>**. 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. 2009.
- 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 October 10, 2008.**