ADULT CHAPERONES

ADULTS ATTENDING CONFERENCE INCLUDE:

AREA COORDINATORS, COUNTY CHAPERONES AND ROUND-UP VOLUNTEERS

The State 4-H Council and the Iowa State 4-H Youth Development staff appreciate the involvement of adults as chaperones and coordinators at the Iowa 4-H Youth Conference. Adults take time from jobs and commitments to help youth enjoy a positive experience at Conference and Round-Up. The nights are short, the days long, it’s hot, and there is a lot of campus to cover. But, activities are exciting, thought-provoking, and entertaining. The youth are contagiously energetic and motivating. It’s a good time to meet new people, and enjoy a change of pace from daily routines. We hope adults want to return to Conference and Round-Up right along with the youth.

All adult chaperones form a work team cooperating with the Area Coordinator and State 4-H Council in planning local orientation and supervising delegates. On-campus housing eliminates lots of walking but complicates overseeing the delegates while in the halls. Each county is encouraged to have at least one male and one female chaperone for their delegation. There should be a same gender adult for every 10 youth. If delegations are small, chaperones can be shared in the area, but we must know who is designated for a particular county.

Experience shows county chaperones play an important role in guiding the behavior of conference delegates. Ideally, each county sends at least two adult chaperones: one male and one female. For small delegations, this may not be possible. Arrangements for shared chaperones should be made by June 1st and the information shared with the Area Coordinator. This allows the shared chaperone to be introduced to delegates at local orientation meetings and helps us in housing assignments to place them closer to the youth for whom they are responsible. Counties and/or areas should recruit one chaperone for each ten delegates of the same gender. Round-Up volunteers count in the chaperone ratio. They are to participate in all activities.

All volunteers must complete the regular Conference Registration process on-line, which also includes the Iowa 4-H Medical Information/Parental Permission Agreement Form, and Code of Responsibilities, to be sure they have housing and meals, and their fees have been paid.
EXPECTATIONS FOR CONFERENCE AND ROUND-UP CHAPERONES:

The most effective method of adult leadership is by example. Adult delegates encourage and support youth delegate expectations. Adult participants will:

- Provide adequate pre-conference orientation so delegates know what to expect and what is expected of them, including the Code of Responsibilities.
- Be well-informed by attending chaperone meetings at Conference.
- Have a Conference program and campus map available at all times and be willing to answer questions and give directions.
- Set an example by appropriate cell phone usage and wearing appropriate clothing for each activity and not wearing T-shirts with inappropriate imprints. Dress for banquet: men-shirts and ties; ladies-skirts or dress slacks (no jeans). It is also important not to wear hats at banquet, meals, and sessions at C.Y. Stephens Auditorium.
- Work together with other chaperones and staff to supervise delegates’ behavior.
- Assume responsibility for discipline should it become necessary.
- Enforce evening curfew hours and assist with bed checks each night and room checks at departure on Thursday.
- Volunteer for a shift in the on-site Conference office and other tasks as identified.
- Enjoy youth -- their enthusiasm and traumas.
- Work as partners in planning, implementation, and evaluation.
- Attend and participate in ALL THREE DAYS of Conference and Round-Up
- Participate in scheduled activities and programs and be available to delegates.
- Be energetic enough to stay up late, walk, talk, and laugh.
- Be out of high school a minimum of two years, preferably 21 years of age.
- Be housed with their delegates and be available for questions and assistance.
- Help coordinate floor meetings.
- Insure youth from their areas comply with residence hall guidelines, informing youth and counties that they will be billed a $50 fine for screen removal. There is no warning and university policy rules.

SUGGESTED SELECTION PROCESS:

- Involve youth delegates in identifying adult volunteers.
- Choose participants early so they can help plan and implement orientation.
- Make it an honor by paying expenses and providing recognition in press releases and publicity.
- Be sure they are on a county-approved volunteer list in accordance with the state child protection policy.