

Fond du Lac County 4-H New Horizons Experience Planning Committee /Adult Advisor Description

Goals: The goals of the 4-H New Horizons Experience are

1. Leadership and Skill Development
 - a. Youth will gain independence through travel and new life experiences in another state.
 - b. Youth will develop leadership skills in planning and organizing, responsibility, cooperation, budgeting, decision-making and problem solving, communication, goal-setting, and reflectively evaluating their work.
2. Community Service Learning
 - a. Youth will participate in and assist in the leadership for at least one authentic service-learning experience in another state.
 - b. Youth will apply service learning when they return home.
3. Understanding of others - Youth will increase awareness of a variety of cultural identities and exhibit understanding for individuals different from themselves. They will show concern for others and accept differences.
4. Fun - Youth will enjoy the experience through having the opportunity to take on a new challenge where they work together as a team, meet new people and address an identified need.

Responsibilities: Planning committee members/advisors budget for, maintain, and organize the 4-H New Horizons experience along with youth participants. Adults also share responsibilities for chaperoning, teaching and administering the experience. A minimum of two chaperones (if possible, both male and female) are needed. One chaperone serves as the First Aid administrator during the experience. This committee member's responsibility includes reviewing health forms and maintaining/administering medications throughout the travel experience.

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

The planning committee meets in Fond du Lac, typically starting in November or December and meets monthly until the time of the experience (which has typically been late July or early August).

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 with another adult of the same gender.
- Expect long periods of riding on a bus or traveling by other means.
- Participants may experience high temperatures with humidity depending upon the location of travel selected.
- Public speaking is required.

- Adult leaders must work cooperatively with fellow chaperone team members and remain with the delegation at all times during the program.
- Participation in the planning committee is mandatory.

Qualifications:

- *The committee is open to any adult interested in the development of 4-H New Horizons Experience*
- *Adult advisors on the experience must be at least age 21, participate in the Volunteer in Preparation 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 traveling, working with young people, or chaperoning are preferred.
- 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.

Cost:

The cost of this program depends upon travel location selected, method of travel, lodging arrangements, cultural sites visited, and meals selected. At this time, both the Adult Leader Association and the Teen Leader Association offer some budgeted funds. Other funds are raised through fundraising as decided upon by the planning committee. Personal payment of costs will also be expected. Cost of the program is equally divided among all adult advisors and youth participants.

Contact Person: Denise Retzleff, 4-H Youth Development Educator, UW-Extension Fond du Lac County, 400 University Dr, Fond du Lac WI 54935. 920-929-3170. denise.retzleff@ces.uwex.edu

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Please complete the questions below. They are a tool intended to help bring together a strong New Horizons Chaperoning Team and a tool for your own reflection.

Chaperone Applicant Name: _____

Phone Number: _____ **E-mail:** _____

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

1) Please share why you are interested in chaperoning the New Horizons Experience and participating in the planning committee.

2) What skills, gifts, talents and/or certification do you bring to the New Horizons 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 chaperone 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?

Please provide a reference:

Name: _____ **Phone Number:** _____

How do you know this person: _____

After reflecting on these questions and completing the answers, please return your 2 pages of responses to Denise Retzleff, UW-Extension Fond du Lac County, 400 University Dr, Fond du Lac WI 54935; or denise.retzleff@ces.uwex.edu If you e-mail it, request a confirmation that it was received.