



Volunteer Position Description

Overnight Chaperone

All South Dakota 4-H volunteers must complete the volunteer screening process, background check and training requirements. 4-H volunteers are committed in working in partnership with SDSU Extension to ensure a positive youth development environment and successful 4-H Program. All volunteers will support the positive growth and development of all youth in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act, Title IX of the Educational Amendments, and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Volunteers will follow all civil rights policies set forth by the South Dakota Board of Regents, South Dakota State University, and SDSU Extension. 4-H volunteers will follow all guidelines and policies of SDSU Extension, South Dakota 4-H, and county 4-H programs.

Purpose:

- Work with SDSU Extension staff to ensure youth have fun and safe overnight experience

Time Required:

- Dependent on the length of overnight experience. Varies from 1 night to 6 nights.

Qualifications:

- Active status as a certified volunteer with SDSU Extension and South Dakota 4-H.
- Firm understanding of SD 4-H program structure, guidelines, policies, etc.
- 21 years of age prior to 4-H Event. (25 years of age required for any volunteer driving youth)
- Ability to interact with all different age levels.
- Ability to observe member behavior, assess its appropriateness, and enforce appropriate safety regulations.
- Physical ability to respond appropriately to and assist members in emergency situations.

This role is ideal for people who have:

- An interest in teaching and sharing knowledge and skills with youth.
- An interest in working with other volunteers and professional staff.
- An ability to communicate effectively with youth, parents, and other adults volunteers and staff.

Responsibilities:

- Conduct yourself in a responsible manner and serve as a positive role model.
- Promote safety and inclusivity throughout overnight experience length.
- Create and maintain a safe environment that fosters positive youth development
- Promote Youth Development practices.
- Oversees all youth delegates within the framework of overnight experience's itinerary.
- Willingly listen to ideas from all youth delegates and provide appropriate feedback.
- Take an equal share of the on-call nights.

- Participate fully in the experience activities from start to finish.
- Enforce rules and behavior expectation for all youth delegates.
 - Per the member Code of Conduct and specific trip's Code of Conduct/expectations
 - Per the South Dakota 4-H Dress Code (when applicable)

Benefits:

- Personal skill development through supporting youth and contributing to the 4-H organization, including: acquiring leadership, strengthening communication skills, and gaining confidence.
- The opportunity to directly work with youth and observe them succeeding.
- Satisfaction of contributing to positive development of youth.
- Potential to gain technical skills that are transferable to professional work environments.

SDSU Extension and South Dakota 4-H Agree to:

- Provide training opportunities and resources to help volunteer meet their needs.
- Provide appropriate manuals, pamphlets, audio-visual aids, newsletters, and other resource materials.
- Have professionals available to listen to volunteer ideas to help improve the 4-H program.
- Provide appropriate recognition and awards to volunteers.

Printed Name

Signature

Date

First Adopted March 1, 2022

Last Revised June 1, 2025