

Exchange Trip/Ambassador Guidelines

What is a Ford County 4-H Ambassador?

Ambassadors serve a leadership role in our county. It is their responsibility to promote 4-H to the public and within our own organization. This is our prime leadership development group!

What is 4-H Cultural Exchange?

The Cultural Exchange program is designed to help youth gain more independence, a greater appreciation for other parts of the state and country, new friends, and new experiences. It is a **two-year** commitment. It is recommended that you enroll in the self-determined project to receive credit for the many activities and experiences you will have while in Exchange, but it is not required. **This is a youth group with parent support and involvement.**

Do I have to do both Ambassador and Exchange duties?

No, you may be interested in one or the other or both. A current application is required for either group, and you will check what areas you are interested in.

Guidelines:

1. Age Requirements

12 and up for Ambassadors

12-13 for in-state Exchange (not always offered)

14 and up for state-to-state Exchange (exception to anyone who participated in last year exchange that may have aged out of 4-H)

Officers - ages 14 and up

2. Number of adults on Exchange Trips –

Minimum of 1 adult per 10 4-H'ers is the state requirement; the number of adults will depend upon the mode of transportation and the number of 4-H'ers attending.

Families must have both parents complete the volunteer screening process to be eligible to host/sponsor.

Drivers must be 21 years of age and older in order for 4-H Insurance to cover the driver and those in the vehicle.

3. Point System

a. One point per hour worked (not hanging out) on EXCHANGE activities and one point per meeting attended.

- Ambassador activities are NOT Exchange activities. Ambassador activities may include leadership development events such as Lock-In's, Fair activities, announcing at shows, 4-H promotions, Rodeo Kiddie Corral, & other events that are not Exchange Fundraisers.

b. Work shifts at Exchange fund raising events will be limited to a specific time and number of people; if you sign up for a shift and can NOT fulfill the work time, it is YOUR responsibility to find a replacement. Donations of food/booth items for Flea Market have points attached for member to earn.

c. Participation in an Exchange Trip will require a certain number of points based upon the total number of points available and attendance at a minimum of three meetings and one or more fund raising events.

d. Points may be shared among family members (i.e. Mom works and shares her points with 4-H'er wanting to go on an Exchange Trip).

e. Every year following an exchange your points zero out (whether you participated or not); point accumulation for the following year will begin after the summer exchange trips have occurred (usually in July) rather than on October 1 when the new 4-H year begins

A current Exchange/Ambassador Application is due each year to the Extension Office. During travel year, a Code of Conduct form and an Exchange Commitment Form will need to be signed by both member and parent and turned in to Office.