

RUSK COUNTY 4-H LEADERS COUNCIL

(Revised and approved by general membership on October 25, 2014)

The membership of the Rusk County 4-H Leaders Council agrees that the membership in this group is open to all persons, without regard to race, ethnic background, religious affiliation, economic background, or economic circumstances, and the group does not operate on a segregated basis.

Article I

Name:

The name of this organization shall be the Rusk County 4-H Leaders Council.

Article II

Objectives:

- A. To develop, strengthen and correlate the work of the 4-H clubs in the county with the Extension Service of the University of Wisconsin in the county.
- B. To represent local 4-H clubs in advising and helping the UW-Extension Service staff on matters of direct concern to strengthen the 4-H program throughout the county.
 - 1.) Contests and award programs and other forms of recognition.
 - 2.) Aid in selecting 4-H club delegates for district and state functions.
 - 3.) Help obtain literature and materials desired by clubs and committees.
 - 4.) Help determine areas where skill development is needed.

Article III

Mission Statement:

Through programs and activities that involve youth and adults together, the Rusk County 4-H will build a foundation of life skills in communication, cooperation, decision making, positive work ethic, spirit of fun and adventure, self esteem, leadership, self confidence, and project skills.

The 4-H program will make efficient use of county, state, and other governmental resources to meet the needs of the youth of Rusk County. The program will provide a safe and positive environment where youth can grow and develop.

The delivery of the program is dependent upon a cadre of dedicated, enthusiastic and skilled adult volunteers. County agents and other UW-Extension and state staff will serve as resources to support the development of the volunteer leadership. The volunteer leadership is the governing body for the county 4-H program.

Article IV

Membership:

The membership of this organization shall consist of all 4-H parents and interested adults. The county UW-Extension 4-H & Youth Development Agent and Junior Leader Organization representatives will sit on the council.

Voting:

Each member of the council shall have one vote. The 4-H & Youth Development Agent is the only ex officio member.

Article V

Leaders Council:

- A. The Rusk County 4-H Leaders Council shall consist of nine members from within the county 4-H program, and two JLO members. Each person on the council shall have one vote.
- B. The county 4-H & Youth Development Agent shall be an ex officio member.

- C. It shall be the duty of the 4-H Leaders Council to handle all the official business of the Rusk County 4-H Leaders Council as they are advised by said organization or in a manner which the Council feels is in the best interest of the total county program.
- D. The Rusk County 4-H Leaders Council and the 4-H & Youth Development Agent has the oversight of the entire county wide 4-H program.
- E. In the event of unresolved conflict at either the club or county level, the Rusk County 4-H Leaders Council may act as a mediator, or can call on other resources as needed to resolve the conflict.

Article VI

Election of 4-H Leaders Council Membership:

- A. Nominations to the Rusk County 4-H Leaders Council shall be made by remaining members and from the floor at the Annual Meeting held in October. The Rusk County 4-H Leaders Council shall be elected by the 4-H Leaders from within the county 4-H program. The election shall be done by a ballot vote.
- B. Each Council member shall serve a term of three years. A member may serve more than two successive terms, only after an absence of one year.
- C. Two people from the same club and that are part of the same family cannot sit on the council at the same time (excludes JLO Youth Representatives).
- D. Two JLO representatives to the Leaders Council shall be elected by the Junior Leaders Organization. Election shall be done by a ballot vote.

Election of 4-H Leaders Council Officers:

- E. The officers of the Rusk County 4-H Leaders Council shall be elected by the Council members, and have a separate meeting after the annual meeting to elect officer positions, with the exception of the Treasurer position. The Treasurer position shall be elected from the existing Leaders Council board in June. They shall assume office immediately.

Article VII

Term of Office:

Each officer may be elected for a succeeding term. An officer may serve more than two successive terms, only after an absence of one year.

Article VIII

Meetings:

The Rusk County 4-H Leaders Council shall meet regularly, the first meeting to be held within a month of the annual meeting in October.

The October meeting shall be called the Annual Meeting and election of the Rusk County 4-H Leaders Council members are held at this time.

Meeting dates shall be set by the Council President. Special meetings of either or both bodies shall be called by the President when necessary. Meeting dates shall be set in cooperation with the county UW-Extension 4-H & Youth Development Agent or other county UW-Extension staff in the absence of the 4-H & Youth Development Agent.

Article IX

Committees:

- A. The 4-H Leaders and the Rusk County 4-H Leaders Council has the authority to appoint standing committees as deemed necessary.
- B. The Rusk County Leaders Council oversees all committees and has the authority to take over a standing committee if they see fit.

Article X

Amendments:

Amendments to the constitution of the Rusk County 4-H Leaders Council shall be made by a majority vote of the members present at the annual meeting held in October. Each proposal to amend shall be acted upon only if written notice has been given by the secretary thirty days prior to the meeting. A copy of such proposal shall be embodied in the meeting handouts.

BY – LAWS
(Revised September 17, 2014)

Article I

Duties of Officers:

President - It shall be the duty of the President to preside at all meetings of the organization. The President shall be an (ex officio) member of all regular and special committees and shall perform such other duties as are usual for such an officer. The President is allowed to vote only if needed to break a tie vote.

Vice President – It shall be the duty of the Vice President to perform the duties of the President in case of disability or absence from meetings. The Vice President shall be a member of the budget and audit committees.

Secretary – This officer shall keep in permanent form complete and accurate records of all resolutions and proceedings of the meetings, and shall perform all duties pertaining to the office and such other duties as may be determined by the Council.

Treasurer – This officer shall keep in permanent form complete and accurate records of all finances of the Organization and shall perform all duties pertaining to the office. The Treasurer is chairman of the budget and audit committees.

Reporters (2) – It shall be the duty of the reporters to attend all county wide 4-H events in order to take pictures and write news articles. The reporters will work directly with the local media to promote the Rusk County 4-H Organization.

Historian – It shall be the responsibility of the historian to keep memorabilia items from the present 4-H year and put them together into some presentable form. The historian will need to work closely with the reporters in order to acquire memorabilia.

Parliamentarian – It shall be the duty of the parliamentarian to learn parliamentary procedure and preside at all Leaders Council meetings making sure that all parliamentary rules are followed that the group stays on task.

Hospitality - This officer is responsible for bringing treats to all meetings and making everyone feel comfortable and welcome. This officer will also be in charge of all thank you's that need to be made over the 4-H year.

JLO Representative – JLO youth will serve as the countywide youth voice for the Rusk County 4-H program.

Article II

Attendance Policy

All leaders council board members must attend $\frac{3}{4}$ (9 out of 12) of the meetings for the year or they will be removed at the 4th missed meeting. The board shall fill the vacancy by appointing someone who was nominated at the annual meeting if possible. Any member not able to attend a meeting needs to notify a board member or the 4-H Youth Development Agent that they won't be present.

Article III

Filling Vacancies

In case of a vacancy on the Rusk County 4-H Leaders Council, the President shall appoint someone to complete the unexpired term.

Article IV

Amendments

Amendments to the By-Laws of the Rusk County 4-H Leaders Council shall be made by the majority vote of the members present at any meeting of the general membership or 4-H Leaders Council Meeting.

Article V

Standing Committees:

- 4-H Dairy Committee
- 4-H / FFA Livestock Committee
- 4-H Small Animal Committee
- 4-H Junior Leaders Organization (JLO)

Ad Hoc Committees:

- 4-H Cultural Arts Committee
- 4-H Green & White Day Committee
- 4-H Record Book Committee
- 4-H Awards and Recognition Committee
- Clover Plunge Committee
- Young Members Trip Committee

These committees may sub-divide if necessary along project interests.

Committee Officers

Any adult who holds a board position on any of the Rusk County 4-H committees must be an active certified 4-H volunteer.

Article VI

District:

County – wide clubs shall be considered part of the Northwestern District.

Article VII

Adult Leaders:

Registered 4-H Leaders shall be those who have signed the adult enrollment form, the adult behavior form, have completed the Youth Protection Training, and indicated a desire to become actively involved in the 4-H program. Their involvement has been indicated by their selection of one or more of the following leader designations: Project Leader, General / Organizational Leader, Activity Leaders, or Resource Leader. By completing the Youth Protection Process and selecting a leader category, they are covered by the 4-H accident insurance and the County liability insurance.

Article VIII

Record Books:

It shall be at the discretion of all Rusk County 4-H clubs to determine if record books are mandatory. Any youth interested in attending National or International 4-H trips must turn in a record book. All record books should be turned in at the county level.

Article IX

Youth Trips:

All youth interested in attending trips must fill out an M.E. Form and go through an interview in order to be eligible.

All youth who attend trips that are fully or partially funded by the Rusk County 4-H Leaders Council must provide a presentation or thank you at any county 4-H event and/or Leader's Council Meeting (Cultural Arts Day, Achievement Day, Green & White Day, etc.). Failure to do any type of presentation will result in no further funding.

For future funding for a youth to attend the same trip again, that youth must turn in a record book. Failure to do so will result in no further funding.

If a youth backs out of a trip before the deadline there will be no penalty. If a youth backs out of a trip after the deadline the youth must pay the full amount of the trip. Youth have the option of finding another youth to take their place in an emergency situation. Youth will not be eligible for future trips until their bill is paid in full.

The Rusk County 4-H Leader's Council reserves the right to review any applicant.

Article X

Trails End Youth Camp Board of Trustees Representatives:

A. Purpose

-The purpose of the Trails End Youth Camp Board of Trustees Representatives is to act as over-all camp governing body, set policies for the administration and operation of Trail's End Youth Camp, handle financial matters relating to camp management; set rental fees and recommend a budget and any projects to the Agriculture and Extension Education Committee, and recommend major changes in camp facilities.

B. Membership

-There shall be two active leaders from the 4-H clubs of Rusk County.

-Nominees should be members in good standing of the 4-H organization.

-The Rusk County 4-H Youth Development Agent shall be an ex-officio non-voting member.

C. Term of Appointment

-The term of appointment shall be three years.

-4-H representatives' seats shall be run on alternate years.

-Each representative may be elected for a succeeding term.

-A representative may serve more than two successive terms, only after an absence of one year.

-In case of a vacancy the Rusk County 4-H Leaders Council shall refill the position at any regular meeting.

D. Election of 4-H Representatives

-Nominations for the Trails End Camp Board of Trustees Representatives shall be made by remaining members and from the floor at the Annual Meeting held in October.

-The Trails End Camp Board of Trustees Representatives shall be elected by the 4-H Leaders from within the county 4-H program. The election shall be done by a ballot vote.