

Rusk County 4-H Leaders Council

(Revised and approved by general membership on October 21,2023)

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 are 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 government 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 certified leaders elected at the annual meeting.

The county UW-Extension 4-H and Youth Development Educator and the Junior Leader Organization representatives will sit on the council.

Voting:

Each member of the council shall have one vote. The UW-Extension 4-H and Youth Development Educator is the only ex officio member.

Article V

Leaders Council:

- A. The Rusk County 4-H Leaders Council shall consist of approved 4-H adult leaders/volunteers from within the county 4-H program, and two JLO members. Each person on the council shall have one vote.
- B. The UW-Extension 4-H and Youth Development Educator 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 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 UW-Extension 4-H and Youth Development Educator 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 Leader 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 the 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 4-H program. The election shall be done by a ballot vote.
- B. Each Council member shall serve a term of three years.
- 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 Representative).
- D. Two JLO representatives to the Leaders Council shall be elected by the Junior Leaders Organization.

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:

There is no term limit.

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 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 and Youth Development Educator or other UW-Extension staff in the absence of the UW-Extension 4-H and Youth Development Educator.

Article IX

Committees:

- A. The 4-H Leaders and the Rusk County 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 By-laws of the Rusk County 4-H Leaders Council shall be made by a majority vote of the members present at any meeting of the general membership of 4-H Leaders Council. Each proposal to amend shall be acted upon only if written notice has been given by the secretary thirty days prior to the meeting.

Article XI

Duties of the 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 the regular and special committees and shall perform such other duties as are usual for such an officer. The President is only allowed to vote 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 office 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.

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

Article XII

Attendance Policy

All Leaders Council Board members must attend 3 meetings out of the previous 12 months 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 UW-Extension 4-H and Youth Development Educator that they won't be present.

Article XIII

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 XIV

Standing Committees:

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

Ad Hoc Committees:

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

These committees may subdivide if necessary along project interests.

Committee Officers:

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

Article XV

District

County wide clubs shall be part of the Northwestern District.

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 XVI

Record Books:

It shall be at the discretion of all Rusk County clubs to determine if record books are mandatory. Any youth interested in attending a 4-H educational experience with Leaders Council funding must turn in a record book. All record books should be turned in at the county level.

Article XVII

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 Leaders Council Meeting (Cultural Arts Day, Achievement Day, Green and White Day, etc.). Failure to do any type of presentation 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 Leaders Council reserves the right to review any applicant.

Article XVIII

Trails End Youth Camp Board of Trustees Representative

A. Purpose

- The purpose of the Trails End Youth Camp Board of Trustees Representative is to act as overall camp governing body, set policies for the administration and operation of Trails 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 Committee, and recommend major changes in camp facilities.

B. Membership

- One member plus one alternate member of Rusk County 4-H Leaders Council to attend Trails End Youth Camp Meetings
- The UW-Extension 4-H and Youth Development Educator shall be an ex officio non-voting member.