

INTERSTATE EXCHANGE GROUP

1. The goal of the Montana 4-H Program is to: "Educate youth and adults for living in a global and ever-changing world by using the resources of land-grant Universities and the U.S. Department of Agriculture."
2. The objectives for the program focus on building the following life skills
 - Fostering positive self-concept
 - Learning decision-making and responsibility for choices
 - Developing an inquiring mind
 - Relating to self and others
 - Acquiring a concern for communities - local and global
 - Learn tolerance and acceptance of others different from us.
3. Families should be aware that 4-Hers may be staying with families and hosting 4-Hers of various cultural backgrounds including race, religion, sexual orientation, income, lifestyle, age, disability, national origin, and political beliefs.
4. During the two-year period, each member must attend at least one Yellowstone County 4-H Council meeting to give an Exchange report. Members will sign up for the month that fits their schedule. A parent will be asked to organize these reports.
5. Exchange members are expected to attend monthly meetings with the exception of 5 absences for the 2-year period beginning in January of the first year. Approximately, ten meeting are held each year (no meeting in August). The mandatory meetings do not count in the total. If the member can't attend the meeting, they are to contact one of the leaders or the county agent prior to the meeting to be excused from the meeting. Parents can attend two meetings for their kids. Individuals who do not meet these requirements will have their cases reviewed by the county agent and the adult chaperones.
6. Parents are required to attend the May (hosting and traveling information), November (Family Fun Night) and mandatory meeting each year to ensure the success of the exchange.
7. Adults wishing to be chaperones must contact the County Agent by November 1 of the first year of the exchange program. The number participating will be based on the number needed and the number the host state will host. Those identified as the chaperones must attend at least 8 of the meetings each year. They must also be active in the program during the two years.
8. Decisions will be made by a majority of the participants in attendance at meetings.
9. Members will do their best to represent the Yellowstone County 4-H Program by conducting themselves in such a way that will be the best possible representation of themselves, through their abilities, personal appearance and respect for others.
10. 4-H members need to be 12 years old by June 1 of the first year of the two year program. Twelve

year olds must be accepted into the program with the recommendation of the Extension Agent and the leader(s). 11. Yellowstone County 4-H Council policy states that to be eligible to participate in Exchange members must have a completed record book from the previous year. Therefore, record books must be checked for completeness by the club Organizational Leader or County Agent each year by November 1 for members to participate.

12. Applicants are accepted on a first come, first served basis as long as they meet age requirements and contract deadlines. Alternates will be kept on a waiting list. Spaces will be filled if vacancies occur up to the January meeting of the first year of the program. The number of participants will be determined by the host state. Members in their junior or senior year of high school will be given preference over younger members.
13. A \$25.00 deposit per year and signed contract and code of conduct is required by January 30 to indicate your understanding of, and agreement with the Interstate Exchange policy. Each \$25.00 deposit will be credited to your individual fundraising total. **THESE DEPOSITS ARE NOT REFUNDABLE.** If a delegate withdraws, the \$25 deposit(s) will revert to the general Interstate Exchange fund. Make checks payable to the 4-H Council. If a delegate drops out of the program, they must pay any money they owe.
14. Each member is required to do one Community Service Activity per year. This must be reported each year by June 1 to the adult advisor. The activity participated in should be turned in on a sheet of paper. A parent may be asked to track these reports.
15. Scheduled home visits/inspections will be done in each home prior to hosting. Placement of the visiting youth may be altered based on the inspection.
16. Everyone age 18 and older who is residing in the host family dwelling will be expected to complete and pass the Montana 4-H volunteer certification process.
17. All members who participate will share profits from fundraising events. All members will participate in county sponsored fundraisers including Family Fun Night, Communication Day, Make It and Take It, Rescued and Reclaimed Show and/or other county events. Members are excused for attendance at other 4-H events or approved activity. Consequences for not working Family Fun Night and/or other county events may include but are not limited to forfeiting all council money or removal from exchange.
18. Parents are needed to assist with fundraisers and other areas as needed, but may not work in place of a member, except if excused. 19. Each participant and parent/guardian may organize at least one fundraiser or organize an event/activity or do record keeping as needed. The youth and adult in charge need to complete the forms and paperwork for the fundraiser and turn them into the Extension Office within one month of completing the fundraiser. They must meet with the Extension Agent to submit paperwork and funds.
20. Fundraising activities beyond Family Fun Night, Communication Day, Make It and Take It, Rescued and Reclaimed Show and/or other county events are optional. However, if you agree to participate in a fundraiser, your commitment is necessary to insure success. The total dollars

raised will be divided by those participating and credited toward their travel account. Members must vote before the fundraiser is held to determine if the money goes into the general fund to be divided equally or to the individuals working the event to be divided up by the hours worked.

21. Interstate Exchange participants may do individual fundraisers with the approval of the Extension Agent.
22. All fundraisers held for the purpose of raising money for hosting the Interstate Exchange in Montana will be in the general Interstate Exchange fund. Funds remaining from a previous Interstate Exchange and Council Support will be used to defray the cost of group activities. Any costs for group activities not covered by this fund will be the responsibility of the 4-H member and their family. The second year at least \$2000.00 goes into the fund for the next two year exchange.
23. Any costs of hosting delegates for family planned activities will be the responsibility of the host family in agreement with the delegate they are hosting. Funds raised by the group for group activities while hosting will be placed in the general fund.
24. If a participant withdraws from the Interstate Exchange program after working fundraisers, their dollars will be placed in the general fund. Personal money contributed to the fund will be given back to the individual. If an adult chaperon withdraws, their money reverts to the general fund. Personal funds put into the exchange account will be returned if the member withdraws from the program.
25. Enforcement of guidelines and consequences related to Interstate Exchange will be determined on a case-by-case basis by the 4-H Agent and Interstate Exchange Advisor. Consequences for misconduct may be serious and have lasting effects. It may include denial to host in the future years and removal of the guest from your home.
26. No money may be withdrawn from individual account except for exchange purposes or until money in the account covers all hosting and traveling expenses.

I realize that this is a two-year commitment to the Interstate Exchange group and I must attend monthly meetings with a maximum of 4 absences. I am aware of the responsibilities, obligations and expectations, as well as the great times that are part of this program.

Parent Signature

Date

Member Signature

Date