



Weld Agricultural Leadership Ambassadors (WALA) Project

PURPOSE

The Weld County 4-H Agriculture Ambassadors Program has three purposes:

Education

The ambassadors will educate groups on agriculture, including 4-H youth, schools, and other groups seeking education in agriculture.

Collaboration

The ambassadors will collaborate with agricultural organizations and businesses by touring facilities and creating dialogue with industry and community leaders.

Leadership

The ambassadors will serve as leaders and role models for 4-H youth through involvement in 4-H activities, as well as serving as a source of knowledge for 4-H youth. They will participate in leadership activities that will help them develop their leadership style.



STRUCTURE

The team will consist of 5 – 10 ambassadors as determined by a panel of judges. Throughout the one-year term, ambassadors are expected to attend all events and complete a portfolio.

ACTIVITIES

Level 1 Activities

Attendance at regularly scheduled Level 1 activities is required. If an ambassador must miss a Level 1 activity, he or she will be responsible to work with a program manager to complete an alternative learning opportunity. Level 1 activities focus on a specific skill or topic deemed important for the ambassadors to know and are in the form of a workshop, lesson, or visit.

Possible Level 1 activities include:

- What is Leadership?/Overview of Weld County Agriculture
- Being an Ag Ambassador/Overview of Colorado Ag Literacy Plan
- Communication/Media
- Politics/Legislature
- Finance
- Environment
- Agriculture Tours

Level 2 Activities

Many Level 2 activities will be planned as the program progresses. Every effort will be made to give as much advance notice as possible. Attendance at Level 2 activities is voluntary and not all participants will be expected to attend. However, it is expected that ambassadors participate in at least one-half of Level 2 activities.

Personal Project

Each ambassador will choose a topic of interest that falls within the curriculum to research and create a presentation about. They will need to tailor this presentation to multiple audiences and are expected to present it at least once during their term.

Measuring Outcomes

Ambassadors must compile a portfolio instead of an e-record to document their term.

Ambassadors will also complete pre- and post-surveys to determine progress in topic areas, as well as personal reflections. At events where ambassadors are presenting, audience members will be asked to complete surveys of their performances in order to measure the effectiveness of the ambassador.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Interested individuals must fill out an application by July 1st; finalists will be contacted to schedule an interview for July 31st. The final ambassador team will be determined by the beginning of the 4-H year. An individual may be an ambassador for one term, which consists of one 4-H year.

REQUIREMENTS

Ambassadors must be 16 – 18 as of October 1, but not turn 19 before December 31 of the application year. They also must be a Weld County 4-H member and enrolled in an agriculture project for the year. Agriculture projects include:

- Beef, Goat, Sheep, Swine, Poultry, Rabbit (market or breeding)
- Dairy cattle, Horse
- Crops, Entomology, Horseless Horse, Veterinary Science, Gardening, Wildlife, or a Self-Determined project with an agriculture focus

SCHOLARSHIP

Those selected to be an ambassador will receive official Weld Agricultural Leadership Ambassador polo shirt and western shirt. At the time of their graduation, each ambassador will receive a \$1,000 scholarship provided by a sponsor of the program to go towards furthering their education.

PARTNERSHIPS

This program is only possible through partnerships with organizations and business willing to sponsor it. A number of the activities will include working with the sponsors of the program. While program managers will help create partnerships, ambassadors are also challenged to seek out sponsors for the program in order to help fund their scholarship.