



The 4-H/Russian Youth Leadership “On Demand” Program

FAQ's

What is the program about?

The U.S. Department of State has been sponsoring grant programs for youth from all over the world for many years. Most of the time the countries involved are identified well in advance. This program is a little different in that it is designed to support youth from emerging democracies around the world. This allows the State Department to quickly identify a need and adapt to it quickly. The key elements of the program are:

1. To foster leadership development, focusing on civic engagement and entrepreneurship skills to address social issues.
2. To expose participants to American democracy, American customs and culture.
3. To hone the English-language skills needed to connect to the global community

When is the program?

August 6-27, 2015. Delegates will arrive in Washington D.C. and will stay at the 4-H Center in Chevy Chase, MD for three nights as they adjust to the time zone and learn about American government and society. From there they will travel back to our area where they will meet their host families at a welcoming reception in the evening at the Killen's Pond State Park on Sunday, August 9.

How many people will be visiting the US?

There will be 18 teens and 3 adult chaperones.

Who selects the participants?

The U.S. Embassy in Russia will conduct the selection process. Every effort will be made to have a diverse group be selected.

Can they speak English?

Yes, all youth selected are proficient in English. In addition, the selection team is looking for teens that are leaders in their community and are committed to making a change in their community through the implementation of a project. A pre-departure orientation will give the participants background information in American culture as well as information about Delaware as well as D.C., New York and Philadelphia. This orientation will also include an introduction to volunteerism and the 4-H program.

How can my family be involved?

- A. Serve as a host family for one to two Russian teens OR an adult chaperone for a 2 week period (August 9-26, 2015)
- B. Participate in any 4-H functions that the program has opened up to everyone.

How long will the students be in the U.S.?

The program length is three weeks but the Russian teen delegation will arrive in America in Washington D.C. and begin to acclimate to the time zone changes for the first 3 nights of the program. They will also be in New York City for 2 nights and will spend 1 night in Philadelphia. The delegates will be in the host-family homes for about 14 days.

What responsibilities does a host family have?

We are asking the host families to provide the same kind of experience that you would provide to any guest. These include a place to sleep, meals and exposure to American family life. The program will be loaded with activities for the participants, so no extra activities by the families are required. A State Department requirement is that all adults over 18 in the host families be screened. DE 4-H will take care of this at no cost to host families.

If we host an exchange student will we receive information about them before they arrive?

Yes, we will share information about the student and hope to establish email contact between the Delaware and Russian teens prior to their arrival here in the U.S. We have used Facebook successfully in the past as well as Skype.

What will the teens be doing while they are here in Delaware?

The program will keep the teens very busy. In addition to overnight trips to Washington D.C., New York, and Philadelphia, the teens will be involved in a variety of workshops and learning experiences in areas such as leadership, volunteerism, democracy education and more... In addition, the teens will get a healthy dose of 4-H in the hopes that the 4-H model will spread back home.

Will the 4-H'ers be going on a return visit?

No, this is not a reciprocal program.

Can Host teens participate in the program with the foreign teens?

Yes! We encourage it!!! Due to the timing of this exchange, we anticipate more interaction between Delaware 4-Her's and the Russia teens than has been available in the past. We are hoping that the exchange in August will allow Delaware 4-Her's to be active participants throughout the program. We realize that participation in school and sports activities will limit participation. Some activities may have a cost associated with them as the grant that is funding this program does not cover many expenses for host families.

Who can I contact for more information?

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