

WISCONSIN STATE FAIR

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Wisconsin State Fair strives to offer programs which create an educational and memorable experience for its youth participants. A significant aspect of this experience is providing a safe environment for our Junior show exhibitors. Most of the updates for the 2019 Wisconsin State Fair focus on improved procedures to increase junior exhibitor safety which includes the clarity of responsibility and the preparedness of adults in supervisory roles. NEW for 2019, volunteer adults in supervisory roles in the barns must be approved by Wisconsin State Fair and must agree to have criminal background records reviewed and receive training in multiple child protection areas to prepare them for supervision responsibilities.

As in past years, Junior Show exhibitors must be a member in good standing of an approved youth organization to be eligible to participate in the Junior show. NEW IN 2019, junior show exhibitors will have 2 options at time of entry to declare how they wish to exhibit/stall while participating at the Fair. The options available are:

Option 1: Exhibit/Stall with a pre-arranged GROUP OF EXHIBITORS. A group exhibit may contain Junior exhibitors from a single or multi county, multiple families, or other criteria. Examples: Leaf County Exhibitors or BRT Exhibit – (exhibitors from Brush-Rhino-Twig Counties) or Prairie Pioneer exhibitors – (Jones, Smith, Washington and Lincoln families) or Spotted Leopard Show Fever Exhibitors – (breed or other specific affiliation).

Option 2: Exhibit/Stall as a SINGLE/INDEPENDENT EXHIBITOR. Exhibitor/family will stall as an independent exhibit. Independent exhibitors will be randomly stalled in the barn with no affiliation to any group or other exhibitors.

Junior exhibitors must declare at time of entry on May 23rd (deadline) how they will exhibit. Junior exhibitors are expected to review the approved groups (located in the Junior Species Entry information), get permission from the group's volunteer adult contact and declare on their entry their stalling option. Once an exhibitor's entry is received, the exhibitor information will be shared with the Volunteer Adult Group Contact who will confirm the exhibitor's acceptance with the declared group. Youth who are not accepted by a declared group or forget to select an exhibit/stalling option at time of entry will be considered independent exhibitors and will be stalled as such. There will be no exhibit/stalling switching after entry.

Wisconsin State Fair Approved Volunteer Adult Contacts (VAC)

To provide these improved junior exhibitor supervision procedures and exhibit/stalling opportunities, the following processes will be put in place for the 2019 State Fair:

New for 2019, Wisconsin State Fair is seeking Adults (21 years and older) to serve as **Volunteer Adult Contacts (VAC)** who will lead, coordinate and supervise Wisconsin State Fair junior show exhibitors. VACs are responsible for pre-fair exhibit coordination and fair-time exhibit coordination/supervision, which includes junior exhibitor discipline and all other pertinent exhibit decision-making authority for the specific exhibit. VACs will further be recognized by who they will be supervising as follows:

Volunteer Adult Group Contact (VAGC): Lead, coordinate and supervise Wisconsin State Fair Junior Show group animal exhibits in the barns which may consist of junior animal exhibitors from a single or multi county, multiple families or other criteria as defined by the Wisconsin State Fair approved VAGC. VAGCs must be approved and are required to complete a Volunteer Adult Contact application by April 10th. If a VAGC's animal exhibit includes more than 10 junior show exhibitors, the VAGC is responsible to find an additional volunteer adult to assist supervising the group's exhibitors in the barns so the required ratio of **1 adult to a maximum of 10 junior division exhibitors** is satisfied within their group animal exhibit.

- Example: 15 junior exhibitors are exhibiting within group animal exhibit "Blue River Dairy". The exhibit will need a lead **VAGC** and 1 additional Volunteer Adult. All additional volunteer adults must complete the application process just like the lead **VAGC** (completing an application, passing a criminal

background record check, completing online or in-person volunteer training and be onsite during the State Fair for their respective junior show(s).

Approved VAGCs will be selected by Wisconsin State Fair Management and notified of their acceptance or denial by April 17th. Additionally, accepted VAGCS will have their names and contact information posted on the Wisconsin State Fair website by April 17th, allowing potential junior exhibitors enough time to confirm with the **VAGC** if they wish to be a part of the VAGC's group animal exhibit at the 2019 Wisconsin State Fair.

Volunteer Adult Independent Contact (VAIC): Lead, coordinate and supervise a State Fair Junior Show independent animal exhibitor (Option 2 above) in the barns. Junior exhibitors, regardless of age, who choose to stall as independent must have an adult contact (21 and over). VAICs must be approved and are required to complete a Volunteer Adult Contact application which is due at time of entry (May 23).

Volunteer Adult Contact guidelines and responsibilities include:

- Cooperate with, support and accept guidance from Wisconsin State Fair Management showcasing agriculture and youth programs at the Fair. VACs (21 and older) are approved Wisconsin State Fair volunteer adults but are not Wisconsin State Fair employees; therefore, they are not covered by the Wisconsin State Fair's Worker's Compensation Policy.
- Wisconsin State Fair will run a criminal background record check on all potential volunteer adult applicants.
- **All approved Volunteer Adults will be required** to complete online or in-person volunteer training. Specific training program details are forthcoming, but we expect training to include identifying sexual harassment, hazing, bullying, first aid, event responder training, etc.
- **Volunteer Adult Contacts** must conduct themselves in a manner which is in the best interest of youth participants and Wisconsin State Fair. VACs may not use their volunteer authority or title for purposes of private or personal gain. VACs are also expected to conduct themselves with courteous manners/language, exhibit good sportsmanship, serve as a positive role model, treat others with respect and demonstrate reasonable conflict resolution skills. In addition, VAC's may not consume or be under the influence of alcohol or illegal substances while in this supervisory volunteer role at Wisconsin State Fair.
- If transporting youth/adults, operate motor vehicles and other equipment in a safe and reliable manner and only with a valid operator's license, legally required insurance and compliance with all related state regulations and laws.
- VACs must see to it that animals are treated in a humane manner and teach junior exhibitors to provide appropriate animal care and management.
- All VACs must agree to inform Wisconsin State Fair Management of any policy/rule infractions or inappropriate behaviors if incidents occur (including but not limited to: poor attitudes, alcohol/drug possession or usage, vandalism, hazing, violence). *Failure to report any policy/rule infractions or inappropriate behaviors may leave the State Fair and you (the VAC) to unwanted criticism and/or legal liabilities and challenges.*
- Wisconsin State Fair Junior Division Agriculture employees in the Beef, Dairy, Goats, Poultry, Rabbits, Sheep and Swine Departments are **NOT** eligible to serve as a VAC during their active employment.
- A limited number of VACs may have the opportunity to stay in the Tommy G. Thompson Youth Center; however, they will have no Youth Center supervision responsibilities. If accepted for Youth Center lodging, Volunteer Adults will be housed in "Adult Only" rooms.

All VAC applications will be reviewed by Wisconsin State Fair Management. Acceptance will be based on the applicant's criminal background record check, prior Wisconsin State Fair supervisory experience, reference checks with WSF approved youth organizations and must be able to stay at Wisconsin State Fair for the duration of time their junior show animal exhibit is at Wisconsin State Fair.

Questions can be directed to Agriculture Director Brian Bolan via email at brian.bolan@wistatefair.com or 414.266.7050.

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