

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Students are invited to participate in a research study exploring youth leadership development. Parents/legal guardians are asked to consent on behalf their child/legal ward. We are inviting all students participating in the Rural Civic Action Program or any leadership development initiative involving Agricultural Leadership, Education, & Communication faculty.

Included in this letter are the following documents:

Parental/Legal Guardian Consent Form
Youth Assent Form

The Parental/Legal Guardian Consent Form and Youth Assent Form include additional information about participating in the research. They outline the rights of research participants and the approximate time requirements expected for participants.

If you choose to participate in this study, we ask that you return the forms with your child.

We would appreciate your time in helping us learn more about leadership development in youth, but there are absolutely no negative consequences if you decide not to participate. We encourage parents/legal guardians and students to discuss participating in this research study, and if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the researchers (contact information below). If you decide to participate in the study, you can withdraw at any time.

We are very much looking forward to working with exceptional students, and we are also excited about the opportunity to learn more about leadership development in youth.

Sincerely,

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Measuring the Impact of Youth Leadership Development

You are invited to permit your child/legal ward to participate in a research study. The following information is provided in order to help you make an informed decision about whether or not to allow your child/legal ward to participate. Please do not hesitate to ask questions.

Purpose:

This research project aims to develop a measure of youth leadership. Your child/legal ward is invited to participate because he/she is participating in the Rural Civic Action Program or a leadership development initiative involving Agricultural Leadership, Education, & Communication faculty.

Procedures:

Your child/legal ward will be asked to complete two types of surveys. One type of survey is collected from all program participants for the purpose of program evaluation. These paper and pencil surveys are part of the program, and your child/legal ward will be expected to complete them. It will take approximately 15 minutes to complete these surveys at the end of the program. These surveys include questions about demographics, asking for responses regarding race, ethnicity, age, and gender. Surveys will also ask your child/legal ward about their behaviors and beliefs about community service, and how those behaviors and beliefs may have changed due to the program. Example questions include:

- The experience this semester increased or strengthened my confidence that I can help individuals in need by participating in community service activities.
- I think it is important to get involved in improving my community.
- In the last year I've worked on a community service project as part of a school-related activity.
- I feel confident setting targets/goals on my community work.

Although all program participants complete the evaluation surveys, by consenting to participate in this research project (by signing below), you and your child/legal ward agree to allow the investigators to use this information for research purposes. The use of the surveys for research purposes is optional.

Another type of survey is for research purposes only, and these surveys are optional. Completing paper and pencil research surveys will require approximately 30 minutes of your child/legal ward's time during the program. Your child/legal ward will be asked how strongly he/she agrees that certain sentences describe him/her, for example:

- The things I enjoy the most are the things I do the best.
- I think it is important to get involved in improving my community.
- I am confident in my ability to get to know people.
- Learning about leadership is important to me.

Your child/legal ward will also be asked questions about their behavior, for example:

- Are you always careful about keeping your clothing neat and your room picked up?

By consenting to participate in the research project (by signing below), you are agreeing to allow your child/legal ward complete the optional research surveys, and you are agreeing to permit the investigators to use this information for research purposes.

Benefits:

There are no direct benefits to participation in this study. However, we do expect that the information we collect to help people develop more effective leadership development training programs.



Risks and/or Discomforts:

There are no known risks or discomforts associated with this research.

Confidentiality:

Any information obtained during this study which could identify your child/legal ward will be kept strictly confidential. The data will be stored in a locked cabinet in the investigator's office and will only be seen by the investigators during the study and for up to 3 years after the study is complete. The information obtained in this study may be published in scientific journals, presented at scientific meetings, and to academically focused groups (for example college classes or for professional development), but the data will be reported as aggregated data. Child/legal ward and parental/caregiver identity will be kept strictly confidential.

Opportunity to Ask Questions:

Your child/legal ward's rights as a research participant have been explained to you. You may ask any questions concerning this research and have those questions answered before agreeing to participate in or during the study. Or you may call the investigator at any time, office phone, (402) 472-2807, or after hours (402) 617-4533. Please contact the investigator:

- if you want to voice concerns or complaints about the research
- in the event you have any questions about the research

Please contact the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Institutional Review Board at (402) 472-6965 or irb@unl.edu for the following reasons:

- you wish to talk to someone other than the research staff to obtain answers to questions about your rights or child/legal ward's rights as a research participant
- to voice concerns or complaints about the research
- to provide input concerning the research process
- in the event the study staff could not be reached

Freedom to Withdraw:

Participation in this study is voluntary. You and your child/legal ward can refuse to participate or withdraw at any time without harming your child/legal ward and their relationship with the researchers, their teachers, the school in which has provided permission for the research to be conducted, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, or in any other way receive a penalty or loss of benefits to which you or they are otherwise entitled. Also, their grades will not be affected by their participation or withdrawal from the research.

DOCUMENTATION OF INFORMED CONSENT

YOU ARE VOLUNTARILY MAKING A DECISION WHETHER OR NOT TO ALLOW YOUR CHILD/LEGAL WARD TO PARTICIPATE IN THE RESEARCH STUDY. YOUR SIGNATURE CERTIFIES THAT YOU HAVE DECIDED TO ALLOW YOUR CHILD/LEGAL WARD TO PARTICIPATE HAVING READ AND UNDERSTOOD THE INFORMATION PRESENTED. YOU WILL BE GIVEN A COPY OF THIS CONSENT FORM TO KEEP.

_____ **Child/legal ward's Name**

_____ **Signature of Parent/Guardian**

_____ **Date**

Name and contact information of investigators

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Measuring the Impact of Youth Leadership Development – Youth Assent Form

We would like to invite you to take part in this study. We are asking you because you are between 6th and 12th grade. We are interested in measuring youth leadership using surveys.

To do the study, we will ask you to fill out paper and pencil surveys. There are two types of surveys. You will have to fill out one type of surveys as part of the program. You will fill out these surveys at the end of the program. They will take about 15 minutes to finish. By signing this form on the line, you are saying that the researchers *can* use your answers for research. If you do not sign the form on the line, you are saying that the researchers *cannot* use your answers for research. Here are some examples of the questions:

- The experience this semester increased or strengthened my confidence that I can help individuals in need by participating in community service activities.
- I think it is important to get involved in improving my community.
- In the last year I've worked on a community service project as part of a school-related activity.
- I feel confident setting targets/goals on my community work.

You will also be asked to provide your age, race, ethnicity, and gender.

The second type of survey is only for research. The surveys are optional. You will only fill out these surveys if you sign your name on the line. The surveys will take about 30 minutes to finish. You will be asked if you agree or disagree with different statements, for example:

- The things I enjoy the most are the things I do the best.
- I think it is important to get involved in improving my community.
- I am confident in my ability to get to know people.
- Learning about leadership is important to me.

You will also be asked questions about your behavior, for example:

- Are you always careful about keeping your clothing neat and your room picked up?

There are not any right or wrong answers to the questions, and you will be asked to tell the truth the best you can.

All of the information we collect will be kept private, so no one but the researchers will know which surveys are yours. We may publish a summary of everybody's responses or present a summary at a scientific meeting or in a classroom, but your identity and responses would be totally confidential.

Your parents/legal guardians are also asked to give their permission for you to take part in this study. Please talk this over with your parents/legal guardians before you decide whether or not to participate.

You do not have to be in this study if you do not want to. If you decide to participate in the study, you can stop at any time.

If you have questions at any time, please ask one of the researchers.

Signing this form is your choice. Signing the form means that you want to participate in the study.

Printed Name of Participant

Signature of Participant

Date

Name and contact information of investigators

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