



# **AGRICULTURE AGVOCATE LEADERSHIP PROGRAM**

Open to Juniors in the Benson, Campbell, Chokio-Alberta, Hancock, Herman-Norcross, KMS, MACCRAY, Morris Area, Montevideo, Wheaton, and Willmar School Districts

Applications Postmarked by March 31st

## **Riverview Agriculture Advocate Program Mission Statement**

The Riverview Agriculture Advocacy Leadership Program strives to create a learning environment for the development of young leaders in the agriculture industry. Participation in the Advocacy program will increase understanding of the agriculture industry and the important impact it has on our local, state, and national economies. Additionally, the program will develop the necessary support system for participants' current and future involvement as leaders in the agriculture industry.

## **Qualifications for Riverview Agriculture Advocate Leadership Program**

1. Candidates must be at the end of their junior year of high school in the Campbell, Chokio-Alberta, Benson, Hancock, Herman-Norcross, KMS, MACCRAY, Montevideo, Morris, Wheaton, or Willmar School Districts to apply (program runs from June-April ).
2. Neither participants, nor their families, need to be involved in production agriculture. Individuals must, however, have a strong interest in the future of the agriculture industry and be pursuing a career in a related field or business.
3. Participants must have strong communication and leadership skills.
4. Participants must be willing to participate in all aspects of the program including training, tours, community presentations, Ag in the Classroom in their school districts, and involvement in other activities as agreed upon by the program coordinator and the students involved. *All dates and activities will be planned once the students are chosen for this experience.*

## **Scholarship Information**

1. All Agvocates will earn the following:
  - A \$2000 scholarship to be awarded to each student in May after completion of program requirements.
  - Riverview Polo Shirt.
  - Name badge.
2. Students must complete all application requirements: Essay (Page 5) and Application Form (Page 6).
3. All applications must be postmarked by March 31st.
4. All final requirements must be completed by May 1st for payment to be received by Agriculture Advocates.

Please send applications to  
Riverview, LLP, Attn: Natasha, 26406 470th Ave., Morris, MN 56267

## **Program Timeline**

March 31st	Applications postmarked and mailed to Riverview To include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Application</li><li>● Parental Permission Form</li><li>● Typed Essay</li></ul>
April	Notification of candidates advancing to Round 2: Personal Interviews (If necessary)
April	Personal or Digital (Skype) Interviews (If necessary)
June/July/August	Day Training Activities at Riverview Office, Morris MN To include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Riverview Open House – Last Thursday of June.</li><li>● Leadership Development (July)</li><li>● Agriculture Tours (July)</li><li>● Ag in the Classroom Training (August)</li><li>● Presentation Development (August)</li></ul>
September-March	Advocacy Programs To include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Ag in the Classroom Presentations</li><li>● Community Presentations</li></ul>
Nov/Dec	Midwinter Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Hot Topics in Agriculture</li><li>● Update and sharing from Advocates</li></ul>
February/March	Day Training To include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Summary of Events Completed</li><li>● Leadership Development</li><li>● Program Brainstorming Session</li><li>● State FFA Convention Workshop Planning</li></ul>
April	State FFA Convention advocacy workshop presentation

## **Program Application Information**

### **“Hot Topic” Essay Guidelines**

1. Identify one “hot topic or issue,” related to agriculture, you have followed or heard about recently in the news or in your community. Develop an essay that explains the topic, describes how this issue came about, and what you feel could be done by the agriculture community to help educate the public about this issue.  
**Deadline: Postmarked by March 31st.**

***(An essay shares your opinion or perspective. Facts and research may assist your essay writing, however do not submit a research paper.)***

2. *Essay should be a minimum of 500 words and a maximum of 750 words.*

#### **Example Subjects:**

- Environment (issues, new technology, etc.)
- Education (agriculture literacy, image campaigns, etc.)
- Production (disease research, management, etc.)
- Economics (trade and exports, market cycles, etc.)
- Food Safety (food preparation, consumer information, etc.)
- Social Issues (politics of agriculture, animal welfare, expansion, etc.)

*This is not a comprehensive list of the potential subjects your essay could cover. Do not let this list limit you.*

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#### **Interviews (if necessary)**

All applications will be reviewed and semi-finalists may have a personal interview. A committee will interview each candidate that is selected for this round. The personal interview will be an opportunity for candidates to demonstrate their knowledge of, passion for, and commitment to agriculture, and display their ideas for how to increase agricultural literacy in our communities.

Also available at: <http://www.riverviewllp.com/agvocate-scholarship-program.html>

# Application Form

**Postmarked by: March 31**

School District: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Graduation Year: \_\_\_\_\_

Address, including town and zip code: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of one reference Riverview LLP may contact regarding your leadership abilities and agriculture background:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Position: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

***Please answer the following questions on a Word document.***

1. Why would you like to become the Agriculture Advocate in your community?
2. What special qualities or skills can you offer the program and your community?
3. What current issues do you feel are critical/challenging for the Agriculture Industry in your community?
4. Describe your personal goals (education, career, family, leadership, etc.).
5. List the activities in which you are involved: e.g. 4-H, FFA, school, community, church, awards, etc.
6. What experiences have had the greatest impact on your goals?

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## **Riverview Agriculture Advocate Agreement and Parental Permission Form**

### **Parent Portion:**

I support the participation of my son/daughter (name) in activities hosted by Riverview:  
These events include:

- Leadership Training
- Tours
- Community and School Presentations
- County Fair
- State FFA Convention
- Other Events and travel as needed

I understand that some events will not be formally chaperoned by Riverview.  
I understand that my son/daughter will be giving presentations in his/her community and schools on his/her own time.

### **Advocacy Leader Portion:**

I acknowledge that I am representing Riverview, my community, and family through the Riverview Agriculture Advocate Program and that I will conduct myself in a respectful, professional and engaging manner while at all functions, sharing a positive message about the agriculture industry through my conversation and actions.

*Parent Signature* \_\_\_\_\_ *Date* \_\_\_\_\_

*Agriculture Advocate* \_\_\_\_\_ *Date* \_\_\_\_\_

Please provide contact information in the event of an emergency:

Parent/Guardian \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Cell#1 Cell #2

Parent/Guardian email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Score Sheet for \_\_\_\_\_**  
**(Candidate name)**

**Application and Essay: 100 possible points**

Item to be scored	Pts. Possible	Score	Comments
Clear, understandable message	40		
Well-organized thoughts and format	30		
Displays good grammatical skills	30		

**Applicants Selected for Round 2 (if necessary)**

**Personal Individual Interview: 100 possible points**

Item to be scored	Pts. Possible	Score	Comments
Communication and Listening Skills	25		
Appearance, Poise and Manners	25		
Confidence and Enthusiasm	25		
Knowledge of the Agriculture Industry	25		

**For More Information on this Program, Contact:**

Riverview, LLP  
 Natasha Mortenson  
[natasha.mortenson@riverviewllp.com](mailto:natasha.mortenson@riverviewllp.com)  
 Cell: 320-815-8459  
 26406 470th Avenue, Morris, MN 56267  
 Telephone: 320.392.5609  
[www.riverviewllp.com](http://www.riverviewllp.com)