



**AGRICULTURE  
AGVOCATE  
LEADERSHIP  
PROGRAM**

Open to Juniors at Sisseton High School and  
Milbank High School

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 at Sisseton High School or Milbank High School (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 \$2,000 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 31, 2018.
4. All final requirements must be completed by May 1, 2019 for payment to be received by Agriculture Advocates.

Please send applications to  
Marshall Dairy, Attn: Kelly Brandlee, PO Box 301, Veblen, SD 57270

## **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 Marshall Dairy, Veblen, SD 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>● Group advocacy Workshop Planning</li></ul>
April	Group advocacy workshop presentation TBD

## **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 (4-H, FFA, school, community, church, awards, etc).
6. What experiences have had the greatest impact on your goals?

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**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  
 Marshall Dairy  
 Kelly Brandlee

[kelly.brandlee@riverviewllp.com](mailto:kelly.brandlee@riverviewllp.com)

Cell: 605-941-2615

PO Box 301, Veblen, SD 57270

[www.riverviewllp.com](http://www.riverviewllp.com)