

## Rocky Mountain Stockgrowers Association Youth Leadership Program

**Purpose:** Develop youth into leaders and advocates for agriculture through experiencing different sectors of agriculture and engaging with leaders in production agriculture. **Applicants do not need any background in agriculture, just a desire to learn about and promote agriculture. Youth should be currently in 8<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> grade to apply.**

**Outcomes:** Youth will learn about modern and successful agriculture operations, learn about the diversity of agriculture in Montana (cattle, crops, sheep, timber etc.), exposure to careers in agriculture, develop leadership and communication skills to help educate others.

**Program Experiences:** Members will go on 6 organized tours of different agricultural operations throughout the spring and summer. Primarily day trips with possibly one overnight trip. Youth will also attend the RMSGA Annual Meeting in November. Members will give a presentation about what they learned from the program to their class at school to educate others about the importance of agriculture. Continue to be a strong advocate for Montana agriculture into the future.

**Program Costs:** Youth participating in the program will be charged a \$50 fee, scholarships are available for the program fee. Members will be provided with travel to the tours, lunches and dinners. They will also receive a shirt and other supplies as necessary.

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

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade in School: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Parent/Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**Applicants need to submit 3 letters of recommendation from non-relatives.**

**Please provide an essay that answers the following questions.**

1. **Why do you believe agriculture is important?**
2. **Why do you think you would like to be involved in agriculture in the future?**
3. **Why is it important for youth to advocate for agriculture?**
4. **What would you like to learn from this experience?**

Submit applications, essay, and letters of recommendation to Ben Hauptman by email or mail before or on April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Applications are also available on RMSGA's website: [www.rmsga.org](http://www.rmsga.org)

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