

# Esko Leads Handbook

Esko Leads is a group that strives to inspire and educate teens to discover the leader within themselves. In this group, students will work together to find out who they are and what they can achieve, now and in the future. On-site advisors endeavor to help students discover causes they are passionate about and help facilitate their goals and ideas. Our priority as a group is to work with local citizens and organizations to benefit our schools, homes and communities in ways students find important. Esko Leads believes in TEAM: Together Everyone Achieves More.

## Our Guiding Principles:

- **Respect** is the foundation of all relationships and efforts.
- The **diversity** of all people should be valued and recognized.
- **Families** must play the primary role in nurturing youth development.
- The people of a **community** are best qualified to identify their needs and initiate action.
- The best **solutions** to youth issues involve the entire community.
- The improvement of **all** youth should be emphasized.
- Youth and adults have an **equal voice** in our organization.
- Youth need to be valued and given **opportunities** to make contributions to their communities.
- Energetic and enthusiastic community **volunteers** are the key to successful collaborations.
- Time and **commitment** are essential to effect change.

## Esko Leads Meeting Dates:

After school meetings will be held every Wednesday (Sept. 21<sup>st</sup> – May 17<sup>th</sup>) from 2:15 PM until 4:00 PM. Please pick up your child at playground door #6. There will be exceptions throughout the year due to events/volunteer opportunities and holiday breaks. All changes will be communicated to parents and students. Special events and additional meeting dates will be posted on the Esko Leads website. It is the responsibility of students to check this page regularly.

Students should bring note-taking materials, and it is recommended that students bring a snack for themselves.

## Parent Communication and Involvement:

This group strives to prepare students for leadership roles in their home, school and community. Students are given a degree of ownership in staying up to date on plans and activities. We ask parents to assist us in this mission by holding your student responsible for their participation in the group. We encourage you to discuss with your student what they are

learning in meetings and volunteer opportunities. Our main line of communication will be through your student; however, we will email and add information to our Esko Leads website and Community Education social media pages as needed.

Parents are always welcome to participate in Esko Leads activities. If you are able and willing to drive and/or chaperone, please indicate this on the Esko Leads Registration and Emergency Contact form. You will be contacted if additional help is needed.

#### Registration and Permission:

Please complete the form included with this handout which grants your child permission to attend all Esko Leads events through Community Education throughout the 2021-22 school year. Information will be provided for every event beforehand, but additional permission will not be necessary unless needed by a partnering organization.

#### Esko Leads Behavior Expectations:

- Be kind and respectful towards other Esko Leads members, staff, and adults.
- Be responsible with school and community property.
- Follow all Esko School policies and expectations.
- Be good representatives of our school, community, and program on and off school grounds.
- Work as a team and share the workload of Esko Leads events and activities.
- Be punctual and present at Esko Leads meetings and events.

In the event of severe or grievous misbehavior, Kids Plus staff will be in contact with parents and will address the situation in accordance with Esko School policy.

# Permission Slip Form

Parents and students, please sign and return to the Esko Leads coordinator. This is a one-time permission slip form unless a separate form is needed by a partnering organization.

Student name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Names: \_\_\_\_\_

- My child has permission to ride with Community Education, Esko Leads staff in school vehicles for off-site activities:

\_\_\_\_\_

Signature and date

- I may be contacted to help drive and/or chaperone for an activity if I am available.

\_\_\_\_\_

Signature and date

- I have read and understand the policies and expectations of Esko Leads, Esko Community Education, and Esko School District.

\_\_\_\_\_

Parent signature and date

\_\_\_\_\_

Student signature and date