**2026 ACE Agent/Adult Expectations Overview**

The Arkansas ACE (Ag Tech Career Exploration) program provides a unique opportunity for youth and adults to grow together through agriculture-focused travel experiences. Adults who wish to apply to be part of the 2026 ACE experience must agree to the following expectations to ensure a successful program year.

**Participation Requirements**

Those selected to participate as agents/adults in the 2026 ACE Program are expected to:

1. **Attend Orientation:**
	* Participation in the full orientation session is mandatory. This will count as one of the four in-state trips.
2. **Attend at Least 3 of 4 In-State Trips:**
	* You must attend a minimum of three in-state sessions to qualify for participation in the international trip.
3. **Participate in the International Trip:**
	* You must be fully available for international travel experience and meet all requirements.
4. **Attend State O’Rama:**
	* Attend a portion of State O’Rama to attend the participants’ presentation debrief,

**Role Expectations**

Agents and adults are not just visitors or observers during the ACE experience—they are active participants who play a critical role in the success of the program. Your involvement directly shapes the participant’s experience. You will be expected to contribute in meaningful ways throughout all phases of the program. A detailed expectations booklet will be provided, but below is a summary of key responsibilities:

* **Engage with Participants**: Develop supportive relationships with participants by being approachable, encouraging, and consistently present. Your interactions should help foster a sense of safety, curiosity, and growth.
* **Delivery and Support Educational Content:** Collaborate with the ACE team to lead or co-lead lessons and activities during both the in-state and international trips. Your contributions may include presenting agricultural topics, facilitate team-building exercises, or offer logistical support during sessions.
* **Model Leadership and Professionalism:** Maintain a positive and enthusiastic attitude, model respectful communication, and demonstrate a strong work ethic. Your leadership sets the tone for participants and helps uphold the mission of the ACE program.
* **Participating Fully in Debriefs and Reflection Sessions:** Your insight and engagement in all debrief meetings are vital to program improvement and student development. Be prepared to contribute reflections and feedback after each trip and during designated evaluation times.
* **Chaperone Duties:** As a designated adult on the international trip, you will always be responsible for supervising participants. This includes staying in assigned lodging, accompanying participants during excursions and meals, performing rotating room checks nightly, ensuring student safety and well-being throughout the trip.
* **Support Program Logistics:** Assist with coordination and implementation of trip schedules, transportation, room assignments, and other planning needs. Be flexible and ready to step in as needed.
* **Maintain Consistent Communication:** Stay informed and responsive throughout the planning period and travel experiences. Be available to attend preparatory meetings and respond promptly to communications from program staff.

Your active participation is not optional, it is essential. By applying, you agree to be fully present and contribute your skills, time, and energy to the ACE program.

**Financial Expectations**

To ensure we stay on schedule with our planning agency and meet international booking deadlines, participants will be expected to fulfill financial requirements earlier in the program timeline. Specific payment amounts and due dates will be outlined in the application process. By applying, you acknowledge your responsibility to meet these financial commitments in a timely manner.

**Important Dates (Tentative)**

* **Applications Open:** September 1, 2025
* **Applications Close:** October 30, 2025
* **Selection Process:** November 2025
* **Notifications Sent:** December 2025

**ACE Program Dates (Tentative):**

* **Session 1 (Orientation):** January 16–17, 2026
* **Session 2:** February 13–14, 2026
* **Session 3:** March 6–7, 2026
* **Session 4:** April 24–25, 2026
* **International Prep via Zoom:** May 28, 2026
* **International Trip:** June 20–27, 2026
* **International Debrief:** July 9, 2026
* **State O’Rama:** Mid/Late July 2026

**Acknowledgment and Agreement**

By signing below, I acknowledge that I have read and understand the expectations for agents/adults participating in the 2026 ACE Program. I understand that my participation is not limited to travel but includes meaningful engagement, leadership responsibilities, teaching duties, logistical support, and financial commitment. I agree to uphold the expectations outlined in this document to support the overall success of the ACE program and the participants involved.

**Name (Printed):** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

This program is supported by NIFA award notification 2024-67038-42795v from the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s National Institute of Food and Agriculture