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CONSENT DOCUMENT

Research Study: Rural Youth Activism

Overview

This Consent Document provides an overview of what to expect if you decide to participate in this study, reviews the benefits and potential risks of participation, provides contact information for the researchers and the research Review Board at SUNY Potsdam that approved this study.

- Please read this document carefully. You may direct any questions you may have to the researchers for this project, Dr. Leandra Smollin and Dr. Anna Sorensen (our contact information is on page two), before you agree/consent to participate. Before any interviews begin, we must obtain legal consent for you to participate in this study, which means you read, understand, and agree to the information provided in this document. This process will look a little different based on your age: *If you are 18 years old*, you will be able to give verbal consent to participate in this study.
- *If you are under 18 years old*, you will be able to give verbal assent to participate in this study. We will also need a parent/legal guardian to give verbal consent to your participation.
- *If you are under 18 years old*, and would prefer to discuss your participation in this study with a Participant Advocate who is not a part of the research team, let us know and we will arrange for an Advocate to contact you. The Participant Advocate will be able to answer any questions you have, and make sure you understand what you are agreeing to, if you decide to participate in this study.

Introduction

You (or your child who is under 18 years old) have been invited to participate in an interview for a research study focusing on youth and social justice, political change, and activism. The aim of this study is to understand how rural youth think about activism and engage in efforts to promote social change.

You are eligible to participate if you are:

- between the ages of 14 and 18,
- live in a rural area in northern New York, and
- self-identify as being involved in social change, political action or social justice.
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This study is being conducted by Dr. Leandra Smollin and Dr. Anna Sorensen, researchers in the Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice at SUNY Potsdam, 44 Pierrepont Avenue, Potsdam, NY 13676.

Study Overview

- **We are inviting you to participate.** Your participation is voluntary (100% up to you).
- **The purpose of this study** is to understand how youth from rural areas think about and engage in activism for social justice or political change.
- The expected **length of time we expect you will participate** is about 1 hour.
- **Procedures (or how it works):** If you agree to participate in an interview, we will set up a time to meet virtually using Zoom. At that point, we will review this document and obtain consent (from you and/or your parent/legal guardian). Then, we will begin the interview. Interviews will be about one hour long. You will be asked questions about your interest, participation in, and thoughts about social change, political action and social justice. Interviews will be audio-recorded with your permission.
- **Possible risks:** The risks of participating in this study are minimal.

- There is a slight risk that you may experience embarrassment as a result of your sharing private information about yourself or your family that you didn't mean to share. To prevent this, we will avoid asking questions about sensitive and very personal topics. We will also remove identifying information (your name and other details) when we talk about this study.
- Because we live in rural areas, there is a small chance that your identity might be assumed if you engage in public activism (if you are visibly active in your community).
- We also want you to know that we are mandated reporters, which means that if you tell us that you, or any other person under the age of 18, is in direct danger of experiencing violence or abuse, we will need to report this for safety reasons.
- **Possible benefits:** There is no direct benefit that you will get from volunteering to participate, although you may enjoy talking about a topic you are interested in to help with our research. This research will indirectly benefit youth living in rural communities by providing information about how communities can support young people's social change efforts. This information may also be useful for educators, policy makers, social service organizations, and community organizers interested in involving youth in social and political engagement.

Compensation

You will not be paid for your participation, although you may choose to enter a random drawing for a \$25 gift card.

Confidentiality

All personal information we collect from you for this study will be kept private, including the fact that you even participated in the study. In any report that we publish, we will change identifying information such as names, organizations, and groups. Research records will be stored securely, and only researchers will have access to the records. Recordings of the interviews will only be listened to by the study investigators or research assistants for the purpose of typing up a transcript. After that, recordings will be permanently deleted. The transcription will not contain any information that will be able to identify you.

Voluntary Nature of the Study:

Participation in this study is voluntary; that means it is 100% up to you if you want to participate. You may stop participating at any time, even if we have already started the interview. You may decide to skip any question(s) that you do not want to answer. Your decision to participate will not have any impact on current or future relations with SUNY Potsdam.

Questions and Contact Information:

The researchers conducting this study are Dr. Leandra Smollin and Dr. Anna Sorensen. You may ask questions at any time, and you are encouraged to contact us with question using email, phone, or via text:

Dr. Leandra Smollin's email is smollilm@potsdam.edu and phone number is 508-523-6908.

Dr. Anna Sorensen's email is sorensam@potsdam.edu and phone number is 315-400-0478.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this study and would like to talk to someone other than the researchers, you can contact Dr. David Bugg, Chair of the SUNY Potsdam Institutional Review Board, by mail: 311 Satterlee Hall, 44 Pierrepoint Avenue, Potsdam, NY, 13676, phone: 315-267-3481, or e-mail: SUNYPotsdamIRB@potsdam.edu.

Approval by the Provost of SUNY Potsdam and the Institutional Review Board attests only that appropriate safeguards have been included in the research design to protect human participants. This approval does not imply that the College endorses the content of the research or the conclusions drawn from the results of the research.

When you verbally state that you agree to participate in this study, you are providing consent/assent that:

- You have read the above information.
- You have asked questions and have received answers.
- You (or your parent/ legal guardian, or the Participant Advocate) consent to participate in the study.

To be filled out by investigator:

Name of participant: _____ Date: _____

Name of participants' consent-provider if under 18: _____ Date: _____

Signature of Investigator after obtaining verbal assent/ consent: _____ Date: _____