

WECAN Site Visit Guidelines 2009-10 for Renewal of WECAN Developing Membership

(WECAN Developing Members affiliated with AWSNA)

The Site Visit and Site Visit Report are required for renewal of WECAN Developing Membership, once every two years. The purpose of the WECAN Site Visit is to guide the Developing Member on the path to Full WECAN Membership. Each visit builds on the prior visit and offers opportunities for self-reflection and peer review and support.

ARRANGING FOR A SITE VISIT

Option A:

If your school is an AWSNA Developing Member, you may have an AWSNA mentoring visit during your WECAN renewal year. This AWSNA visit can be used to fulfill the WECAN requirements, as described below. If your AWSNA Regional Representative and Delegates Circle arrange a site visit, please request that an early childhood person be on this AWSNA Visiting Team and complete the WECAN Site Visit Report. This early childhood person on the AWSNA Team fulfills the role of WECAN site visitor, as described below. Remuneration (honoraria, travel, etc.) is arranged through AWSNA for this visit.

Option B:

If no AWSNA visit is scheduled this year to your school, or when there is no early childhood person on the AWSNA Visiting Team, please arrange to have a WECAN site visit. You may ask your WECAN Regional Representative for names of early childhood colleagues who might be able to act as WECAN site visitors. You are responsible to pay for the site visitor's travel, accommodations and honorarium. The suggested honorarium rate is \$300 per one-day visit, including the writing of the report.

PRIOR TO THE VISIT

You should provide the site visitor with the following:

- Cover Letter for Site Visitors
- Site Visit Guidelines
- Site Visit Report Form
- A copy of your completed Self-Study Update.

The site visitor should review your Self-Study Update; the *WECAN Membership Handbook* and *WECAN Shared Principles* are also helpful sources of information as preparation for the visit.

Please also assemble the following for the site visitor to review during the visit:

- program brochures, recent newsletters, parent handbooks, etc.
- faculty/staff handbooks or policies
- your current budget and/or most recent audited financial statements.

THE VISIT

The site visitor should visit early childhood groups during the visit; the focus is on program development rather than individual teacher development. The visitor's goal is to gain as full a picture as possible of the development of the early childhood programs since the last site visit in relation to the completed Self-Study Update and the WECAN *Shared Principles*, and to make commendations and recommendations for the growth and development of the program in the next two years until renewal.

In the course of the visit, the site visitor will want to review documents, and may ask to meet individually with a few parents, board member(s), administrative staff and others.

It is helpful if the visitor is given some time during the day to make notes, and to participate in a meeting with those who carry responsibility for the development of the program in order to share impressions, review commendations and recommendations, and answer questions. This is also an opportunity for the applicant to learn more about the activities of WECAN.

FOLLOWING THE VISIT: The Site Visit Report

Following the visit, the site visitor will complete the Site Visit Report, using the Site Visit Report Form. The site visitor will send the report to you for review within 30 days of the visit, and you will send a copy to your WECAN Regional Representative. Please keep a copy for future reference in the renewal process.

The WECAN Regional Representatives and WECAN Membership Coordinator will review the report and contact you regarding the renewal of your Developing Membership.

Questions regarding the site visit may be addressed to the WECAN Regional Representative (listed in the *Membership Handbook*) or to the WECAN Membership Office at 845-517-2388 x.17 in Spring Valley, NY.

