



Iowa State University Extension and Outreach 4-H Youth Development Iowa 4-H Code of Conduct for Youth and Families

The Iowa 4-H Code of Conduct applies and will be enforced with 4-H youth, 4-H parents/guardians, and 4-H families.

- While participating in or attending a 4-H sponsored program (e.g. club meeting, project meeting, activity, event, learning opportunity).
- While participating in or attending a 4-H event or while on premises used for 4-H purposes (e.g. County Fair, State Fair, show ring, exhibit building, barn, food stand).
- While representing Iowa 4-H to the public
- Additional programs, events, or opportunities may have additional rules and expectations.
- At all times throughout a 4-H youth's participation when behavior outside of the Iowa 4-H puts youth at risk or has the potential to put youth at risk.

The opportunity to participate in and/or volunteer with Iowa 4-H is a privilege and honor, not a right. All youth participants and parents/guardians supporting their child's participation in 4-H are expected to review and agree to abide by the Iowa 4-H Code of Conduct before becoming involved with Iowa 4-H.

1. I understand that the Iowa 4-H Youth Development program is a non-formal education program in which I have a choice to participate. I accept my responsibility to engage in program activities and to excuse myself from this program if it does not meet my personal learning objectives. I recognize the organization has the responsibility and authority to remove youth who are disruptive to the 4-H Youth Development program, violate the Iowa 4-H Code of Conduct, the standards of the 4-H Pledge and Motto or federal, state or local laws.
2. I accept my responsibility to represent the Iowa State University Extension and Outreach 4-H Youth Development program by holding myself to the standards of the 4-H pledge and motto. I will refrain from behavior that negatively represents myself, my family, my community, 4-H or Iowa State University. I will act in a respectful and responsible manner during all 4-H programs.
3. I acknowledge that the 4-H program utilizes competition related to project work as a tool for learning. I will ensure that my project exhibits are appropriate and respectful. I will demonstrate good sportsmanship, encourage this behavior in others, and not allow this behavior to detract from the learning experience. I will not let my personal desire to win overshadow the needs of the group.
4. I accept my personal responsibility to be informed and follow the policies, rules, and deadlines established by Iowa 4-H. I will not cheat, lie, knowingly furnish false information, deceive, or otherwise engage in dishonest, unethical or illegal behaviors. I will not encourage others to disregard or intentionally violate conditions of Iowa 4-H participation.
5. I will comply with directions of 4-H officials acting in the performance of their duties. I will not obstruct or disrupt any 4-H program or encourage others to engage in such conduct. I understand that a judge's decision is final.
6. I will strive to be a positive role model. I will treat youth, parents, volunteers, extension and outreach staff, judges and others with respect, courtesy and consideration.
7. I will communicate (oral, written and electronic) in an open, honest, respectful manner in all

situations involving the 4-H program. I will refrain from communication that is negative, offensive, destructive or hurtful to others. I will refrain from sharing private matters in a public group setting.

8. I will promote a spirit of inclusion and welcome participation of individuals from all backgrounds. I will not engage in or tolerate harassment in any form, (For example bullying, slander, put-downs, insults, taunting, name calling, yelling, profane language, sexual innuendos and other comments or hostile behaviors likely to offend, hurt or set a bad example.)
9. I will ensure a safe environment for myself and others by not carelessly or intentionally harming youth or adults in any way: emotionally, mentally, physically, socially, verbally or non-verbally.
10. I will not possess, offer, or use tobacco, electronic smoking devices (including but not limited to e-cigs, vapes, juuls), alcohol or illegal substances. I will not attend 4-H programs under the influence of alcohol or any illegal substance.
11. I will respect the property of others. I will not use, abuse, or take another individual's personal belongings. I will not damage facilities.

Infractions to the Iowa 4-H Code of Conduct will be addressed by the Iowa 4-H Program, the local County Extension District, or their appointed representatives. Infractions to the Iowa 4-H Code of Conduct will result in consequences. The consequences may range from a verbal warning to the loss of privileges (e.g. participation at the event or future events, forfeiture of awards or other forms of recognition, forfeiture of positions of leadership, limitation on volunteer responsibilities) to full removal from the Iowa 4-H Program.

County: _____

Signature of Member: _____ Date: _____

Signature of Parent/Guardian: _____ Date: _____

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

Extension and Outreach

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