4-H Volunteer Code of Conduct

The Pennsylvania 4-H youth program prides itself on providing quality educational programs for youth. The primary purpose of this code of conduct is to provide quality leadership and to ensure the safety and well-being of all participants. The opportunity to work with youth is a privileged position of trust that should be held only by those who are willing to demonstrate behaviors that fulfill this trust. For these reasons the following behavior guidelines are provided for volunteers.

Volunteers will:

- Accept their responsibility to represent county and Pennsylvania 4-H youth programs with dignity and pride by being positive role models for youth.
- Conduct themselves in a courteous, respectful manner; refrain from use of foul language; exhibit good sportsmanship; and provide positive role models for youth.
- Obey the laws of the locality, state and nation.
- Respect, adhere to, and enforce the rules, policies, and guidelines established by the county extension office and Youth Program Coordinating Council (YPCC).
- Make all reasonable effort to assure that 4-H youth programs are acceptable regardless of age, ancestry, color, disability or handicap, national origin, race, religious creed, sex, sexual orientation, or veteran status.
- Recognize that abuse by physical or verbal means, failure to comply with equal opportunity and anti-discrimination laws, or a criminal act is not an acceptable behavior and will mandate that the services of the volunteer will no longer be necessary.
- Treat animals humanely and teach 4-H youth to provide appropriate animal care.
- Under no circumstances consume alcohol in the presence of 4-H youth. Use of alcohol in the presence of 4-H youth and/or the use of illegal drugs will mandate that the services of the volunteer will no longer be required.
- Refrain from the use of tobacco or tobacco products in the presence of youth. Youth are influenced by role models and 4-H volunteers should reinforce the health "H" by being positive, healthy role models.
- Accept the responsibility to promote and support 4-H to develop an effective county, state, and national program.
- Permit the operation of machinery, vehicles, and other equipment in a responsible manner with a valid operators license and legally required insurance coverage.

Failure to comply with any component of the code will mandate that the services of the volunteer will no longer be required.

CODE AGREEMENT

I have read the PENNSYLVANIA 4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM BEHAVIORAL EXPECTATIONS and the PENNSYLVANIA 4-H CODE OF CONDUCT. I am aware that my actions and decisions affect me and others and may result in the loss of privileges during 4-H events and for future events. I will conduct myself in accordance with the intent of the Behavioral Expectations and the Code. I will accept the appropriate and logical consequences of my actions if I fail to do so.

Signature of 4-H volunteer ____

Date________________________________