

Pennsylvania 4-H Member Code of Conduct

4-H members participating in or attending club, county, regional, district, state, and national programs, activities, events, shows, and contests sponsored for youth by the 4-H Youth Development Program of Penn State Cooperative Extension are required to conduct themselves according to the Pennsylvania 4-H Code of Conduct **and the Code of Conduct, rules, policies, and regulations for each specific 4-H activity**. The code operates in conjunction with the Pennsylvania 4-H Youth Development Program Behavioral Expectations and the rules and regulations of the specific activity.

Adults attending or participating in 4-H youth activities are expected to conduct themselves according to the code and to assist and support youth in their efforts to adhere to the code.

The following are not permitted at 4-H sponsored programs, activities, or events:

- Possession, consumption or distribution of alcohol.
- Possession, use, or distribution of illegal drugs.
- Possession or use of all tobacco products.
- Sexual activity.
- Boys in girls' rooms and girls in boys' rooms or lodging areas.
- Cheating or misrepresenting project work.
- Theft, destruction, or abuse of property.
- Violation of an established curfew.
- Unauthorized absence from program site.
- Physical, verbal, emotional, or mental abuse of another person.
- Possession or use of a weapon.*
- Possession or use of a harmful object with the intent to hurt or intimidate others.
- Other conduct deemed inappropriate for the youth development program by an event chair; a designated Penn State extension agent, faculty, or staff member; or a 4-H volunteer leader

If the code is violated, the following steps may be taken:

- The adult chaperone for the youth involved in the violation (extension agent or 4-H leader) will be made aware of the situation.
- The parent(s) may be called and arrangements made for transportation home at the parent's expense.
- The 4-H'er(s) may be barred from participating in 4-H.
- When a violation occurs at a competitive event, 4-H members may be disqualified from the contest and be ineligible for any awards. Competition in later contests may also be barred. This will be determined by the event chair; a designated Penn State extension agent, faculty, or staff member; or a 4-H volunteer leader.
- If any laws are violated, the case may be referred to the police.
- All chaperones are responsible for all youth at an event.

*This does not refer to the equipment used in authorized shooting sports practice or competition.

CODE AGREEMENT

My parent/guardian and I have read and discussed 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. We agree that 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.

Furthermore, if it is determined by the adults in charge that my behavior violated the Code, I agree to place a collect call to my parents/guardian. If further action requires me to return home, my parents/guardian and I will arrange for transportation at my expense.

Signature of 4-H youth/participant

Date

Signature of Parent or Guardian

Date