

4-H MEMBER CODE OF CONDUCT

The purpose of the *Code of Conduct* is to clearly outline the expected behaviors of all members, leaders, and other volunteers associated with the 4-H Youth Development Program in Onondaga County. These standards have been established by the Youth, Families, & Community Committee and Cornell Cooperative Extension of Onondaga County (CCE) staff. The *Code of Conduct* will be shared with all leaders, volunteers, and members participating in 4-H events and activities. Procedures for establishing understanding of expectations, managing discipline, and consequences for inappropriate behavior are also outlined in this code of conduct. Chaperones on any 4-H trip/event/activity are responsible for enforcing this code.

Expected Behavior:

1. All participants are expected to be responsive to the reasonable requests of the adult in charge at the time given.
2. All participants are expected to participate in all of the planned programs, to be on time and follow through on assigned tasks/responsibilities in a manner that insures the safety, well-being, and quality of the educational experience for self and others.
3. All participants will act in a mature, responsible manner, recognizing they are role models for others and are representing themselves as well as the Onondaga County 4-H Program.
4. All participants will be dressed appropriately for the event. Dress will depend on the event. Information given prior to the event will state the type of clothing that is appropriate.
5. All participants will be considerate and courteous of all youth and adults and their property during travel, at group gatherings, and during free time.
6. All participants will respect the rights and opinions of others, even if they disagree, realizing that their customs may be different.
7. All participants are to refrain from the possession and/or use of illegal drugs, tobacco products, or alcoholic beverages, firearms, and/or other weapons at all times (unless you are enrolled in a youth shooting sports program). These are strictly prohibited.
8. All participants are to refrain from romantic displays, sexual activities, and any form of harassment at 4-H events. These actions will not be allowed.
9. All participants will use of social media and cell phones in an appropriate and respectful manner.
10. Any form of unkind behavior or harassment will not be tolerated.

Procedures for Sharing and Managing Expected Behavior:

1. At least once a year all youth and adult program participants, including parents and guardians, will receive a copy of the *4-H Member Code of Conduct*.
2. Prior to all overnight programs, an orientation will be conducted by the CCE Educator or adult in charge. The expected behavior and resulting consequences of misbehavior will be shared verbally and/or in writing at this time.
3. Trained adult chaperones will be assigned for all 4-H events. If the chaperone is not a CCE staff member, training will be required and will include authority, responsibility, due process, guidelines, and emergency procedures.
4. A *4-H Member Code of Conduct* including agreed upon behavior expectations, consequences and financial commitment will be required to be signed by the youth participant and their parent/guardian at the beginning of their 4-H enrollment, or prior to the first event.

Consequences of Inappropriate Behavior :

(Any of the following may be used, depending on the severity of the situation.)

1. In mild cases, a warning will be given.
2. Able to remain at the event, but possibly barred from future event(s).
3. Loss of premiums at State Fair (only if the violation occurs at the State Fair).
4. Sent home at the family's expense. This will be followed by a meeting of the participant, their parent/guardian, and CCE staff (4-H Educator, 4-H Program Assistant, Executive Director, and/or Youth, Families, & Community Program Leader). The 4-H club leader and/or chaperone may also be present at the meeting. A decision of the member's status in Onondaga County 4-H will be made at this meeting.

*By signing my name below, I have read and fully understand the "Code of Conduct" above, and will abide by them.

Signature of Youth _____ Date: _____

Signature of a Parent/Legal Guardian _____ Date: _____