

# Georgia 4-H Code of Ethics

4-H LEADERS' CODE OF ETHICS Honesty, fairness, consistency, and sportsmanship are learned, not inherited traits. The most important role a 4-H leader (paid or volunteer) can play in a 4-H member's development is acting as a role model by exhibiting these characteristics. We understand, as youth educators, the only way a 4-H'er truly learns and expands his or her horizon is by making his or her own decisions. "Decisions" include preparing his or her own portfolio, demonstration, speech, or show animal.

A 4-H Leader's responsibility is teaching the 4-H'er the process by which he or she can make a decision, give a presentation, or train an animal using the resources available to him or her. Realizing that one 4-H'er may not have the experience or intellectual development that another may have, indicates to the leader that this 4-H'er may require more help on his or her project than others.

Doing the work for a 4-H member totally circumvents the learning progression which is inherent in the framework of our organization. In congruence with this philosophy, no substantially finished demonstration, including speech and posters or any other 4-H project will be provided to a 4-H'er to be presented as his or her own work in competition. If materials are shared with a 4-H'er, it is for reference and resource purposes only.

The process in 4-H work from Cloverleaf (Elementary) to Senior (High School) levels was created to challenge the young person's intellectual, creative, and emotional capacities. The Georgia 4-H Mission statement emphasizes that 4-H should encourage youth to become self-directing, productive, and contributing citizens. The role of the 4-H Leader is to support, lead, encourage, develop and teach young people. Our role is not to do the work for the 4-H'er.