



Behavior Guidelines for Adults working with Youth in Extension Programming

Georgia families and other youth service programs trust the University of Georgia Cooperative Extension Service to provide educational programs in a safe environment for participating youth. Adults who accept volunteer positions within Extension have the opportunity for a rewarding experience. This opportunity to work with young people is a privileged position. Volunteer positions should be held only by those who are willing to demonstrate behaviors that fulfill this trust.

The behavioral expectations and guidelines established for persons serving in a volunteer capacity with the University of Georgia Cooperative Extension Service are as follows:

- Work cooperatively with youth, families, University of Georgia faculty and staff, community members and others in a courteous, respectful manner demonstrating behaviors appropriate for a positive role model.
- Represent the University College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences' Cooperative Extension Service and the Georgia 4-H program with pride and dignity, behave appropriately, exhibit good sportsmanship, and demonstrate reasonable conflict management skills.
- Respect, adhere, and enforce the 4-H Code of Conduct as well as other rules, policies and guidelines established by the Cooperative Extension Service and event coordinators including state laws and regulations.
- Recognize that verbal abuse, physical abuse or committing criminal acts may be grounds for termination as a 4-H volunteer. Abusive behavior towards 4-H members or other adults including failure to provide adequate health and safety measures, care or supervision, emotional maltreatment of members, verbal or physical abuse will not be condoned.
- Comply with equal opportunity and anti-discrimination policy and governmental laws. Make all reasonable efforts to assure that 4-H youth programs are accessible to youth without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age or disability.
- Treat animals humanely and encourage 4-H youth and adults to provide appropriate and ethical animal care.
- Strive for a minimum of two adults at any activity involving 4-H youth. In all cases, no adult should be left alone with a single child unless the leader is the parent/guardian of that child.
- Under no circumstances, condone other use of or personally consume alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs at 4-H events or activities. Understand that the use of or being under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs while in the presence of 4-H members and/or at 4-H programs or activities will result in termination as a 4-H volunteer.
- Operate machinery, vehicles, and other equipment in a safe and responsible manner when working with youth and adults participating in 4-H programs.
- Accept responsibility to promote, conduct, and support 4-H programs in order to develop an effective local, county, district and state program.
- Recognize the following behaviors as inappropriate in the presence of 4-H club members during any 4-H activity or event:

- *consumption of alcohol
- *promotion of religious or political preferences
- *theft, pilfering, or fraud
- *use of tobacco products outside of designating areas
- *sexual advances or sexual activities involving 4-H youth
- *willful damaging of property
- *permitting passengers to ride in motor vehicles without seatbelts
- *permitting youth or adults in the back of trucks
- *behaviors that are illegal under Georgia or federal law