



Missouri 4-H Parent/Guardian Code of Conduct

The mission of the Missouri 4-H Program is to engage youth as valued, contributing members of their communities in partnership with caring adults. The opportunity to participate in and/or volunteer with Missouri 4-H is a privilege and honor, not a right. All youth participants, parents/guardians supporting their child's participation in 4-H, and volunteers are expected to sign the Missouri Code of Conduct before becoming involved with Missouri 4-H. Continued participation in Missouri 4-H is based on individuals meeting the requirements of the program including the Missouri 4-H Youth Code of Conduct and Parent Code of Conduct. For those adults who opt to become a Missouri 4-H volunteer, there is also a 4-H Youth Protection Policy (Code of Ethics for Staff/Volunteers).

The code of conduct applies and will be enforced with 4-H members, 4-H parents and 4-H volunteers as follows:

- While participating in or attending a 4-H sponsored program at the county, regional or national level (e.g. club meeting, project meeting, activity, event, learning opportunity).
- At the county fair while participating in or attending a 4-H event or while on premises used for 4-H purposes (e.g. show ring, exhibit building, barn, food stand).
- At the state fair, other state events, and national 4-H events.

As a 4-H Parent/Guardian I will:

- **Treat all people and property with respect, courtesy, consideration and compassion.** Avoid and prevent putdowns, insults, name calling, swearing and other language or nonverbal conduct likely to offend, hurt or set a bad example (also including interactions in social media platforms).
- **Keep informed about 4-H program policies and projects and read materials pertaining to the county 4-H program (oral, written, and electronic).**
- **Teach and model kindness and compassion for others.** Recognize that all people have skills and talents which can be used to help others and improve the community. Teach and foster teamwork and discourage selfishness.
- **Practice fair-mindedness by being open to ideas, suggestions and opinions of others.** I will make all reasonable efforts to assure equal access to participation for all youth and adults regardless of race, color, national origin, ancestry, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, genetic information, disability or protected veteran status. Decisions will be made fairly and treat all individuals and families with impartiality.

- **Obey laws and rules as an obligation of being a good citizen.** I accept responsibility for the proper treatment and care for 4-H faculty/staff, Extension staff, volunteers, other youth and adults, the program facilities and/or equipment.
- **Demonstrate the responsible treatment of animals and stewardship of the environment.**
- **Model healthy choices.** I will not use alcohol or illegal substances (or be under the influence) while working with or participating in any part of the 4-H Program.
- **Provide a safe environment for all parties involved in 4-H.** I will protect those involved from sexual harassment, physical force, verbal or mental abuse, neglect, or other harmful behaviors.

I have read, accept and will abide by the full University of Missouri Extension 4-H Youth Development Code of Conduct including the introduction and the statements describing expected behavior. I understand that the expectations apply throughout Missouri 4-H. I also understand that infractions of the Missouri 4-H Code of Conduct will result in consequences and that these consequences apply throughout Missouri 4-H. I will accept the consequences determined by University of Missouri Extension 4-H Youth Development.

Note: During enrollment in the 4HOnline system, youth, parents/guardians and volunteers must accept the policies of Missouri 4-H in order to participate in programs and events.