



# Illinois 4-H Code of Conduct

The opportunity to participate in or attend 4-H activities is a privilege and not a right. All 4-H participants – youth, families, volunteers, and Extension staff – who participate in or attend any activity or event sponsored by the University of Illinois Extension 4-H Youth Development Program are expected to uphold the values of the Illinois 4-H program and conduct themselves according to the following standards. These standards also apply to online 4-H activity, including social media and internet presence.

1. **Create a Welcoming Environment for All.** Encourage everyone to fully participate in 4-H. Recognize that all people have skills and talents that can help others and improve the community. Though we will not always agree, we must disagree respectfully. When we disagree, try to understand why. Our first priority is to create a safe, inclusive space for learning, sharing and collaboration that is welcoming to people from diverse backgrounds, cultures, and perspectives. Diversity includes, but is not limited to: race, color, religion, political beliefs, national or ethnic origin, immigration or citizenship status, sex, gender identity and expression, transgender status, sexual orientation, age, marital or family status, educational level, learning style, pregnancy, physical appearance, body size, and individuals with disabilities.
2. **Bring Your Best Self.** Conduct yourself in a manner that reflects honesty, integrity, self-control, and self-direction. Accept the results and outcomes of 4-H contests with grace and empathy for other participants. Accept the final opinions of judges and evaluators. Be open to new ideas, suggestions, and opinions of others.
3. **Obey the Law.** Commit no illegal acts. Do not possess, offer to others, or use alcohol, illegal drugs, or tobacco products which include e-pens, e-pipes, e-hookah, e-cigars, JUULs, vapes, vape pens, or other electronic nicotine delivery systems. Do not possess or use weapons or firearms except as expressly permitted as part of supervised 4-H shooting sports programming. Do not attend 4-H activities under the influence of alcohol or illegal substances.
4. **Honor Diversity – Yours and Others’.** Respect and uphold the rights and dignity of all persons who participate in 4-H programs.
5. **Create a Safe Environment.** Do not carelessly or intentionally harm or intimidate anyone in any way (verbally, mentally, physically, or emotionally). Do not engage in romantic displays or sexual activities in either public or private situations. Be kind and compassionate toward others. Do not insult, harass, or bully others or engage in other hostile behaviors. Be considerate and courteous of all persons and their property.
6. **Be a Team Player.** Work cooperatively with all individuals involved in 4-H programs and activities. Be responsive to the reasonable requests of the person in charge. Respect the integrity of the group and the group’s decisions.
7. **Humane Treatment of Animals.** Treat animals humanely and teach 4-H youth to provide appropriate animal care.
8. **Participate Fully.** Participate in and contribute to planned programs, be on time and follow through on assigned tasks/responsibilities in a manner that fosters the safety, well-being, and quality of the educational experience for self and others. Have fun!
9. **Watch What You Wear.** Use good judgment. Wear clothing suited for the activity in which you will participate. Dress in a manner that is respectful to yourself and others. Clothing that displays or promotes violence, obscenity, illegal activities, discrimination, or intimidation is prohibited. Do not wear revealing clothing, such as short skirts or shorts, midriff-baring tops, or anything showing undergarments.
10. **Be a Positive Role Model.** Act in a mature, responsible manner, recognizing you are role models for others and that you are representing both yourself and the University of Illinois Extension 4-H Youth Development Program. Be responsible for your behavior, use positive and affirming language, and uphold exemplary standards of conduct at all 4-H activities.

## CONSEQUENCES

Any of the following may be used, depending on severity of the situation:

1. Participant will receive a verbal warning.
2. Participant may remain at the event/activity, but may be barred from future events.
3. Participant may be asked to leave the event/activity. If the participant is a youth, the parent(s) will be called and the youth will be sent home at family’s expense.
- 4.

My signature indicates I have read, understand, and agree to the above University of Illinois Extension 4-H Youth Development Code of Conduct.

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Signature of 4-H Volunteer

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Date



**Extension Participant/Volunteer**

**AGREEMENT TO ASSUME RISKS AND FULLY RELEASE ALL CLAIMS**



**Risks of Extension Activities.** I understand that my participation in University of Illinois Extension activities can present risks of physical injury (including death or disability) to me and damage to my personal property. The University of Illinois does not guarantee my personal health or safety or protect me against property loss. Physical injury to me or property damage may result from known or unexpected risks arising from things such as: use of equipment, materials, or facilities; environmental conditions, including poisonous plants, insects, and extreme heat or cold and other weather-related hazards; natural disasters; water activities; transportation; actions of others; animal behaviors; unavailability of immediate or adequate emergency care; infectious diseases; and slips and falls.

**Risks of 4-H Equine Activities.** Equine (horse, pony, mule, donkey, or hinny) activities present dangerous risks of injury and harm, regardless of the safety measures taken. If a horse or other equine animal is frightened or provoked, I understand that it might ignore its training and act according to its natural survival instincts, which may include actions such as unexpected change of directions or speed; running; sudden movement or stopping; shifting weight; bucking; rearing; kicking; and biting. I understand that **UNDER THE ILLINOIS EQUINE ACTIVITY LIABILITY ACT, EACH PARTICIPANT WHO ENGAGES IN AN EQUINE ACTIVITY EXPRESSLY ASSUMES THE RISK OF ENGAGING IN AND LEGAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE INJURY, LOSS, OR DAMAGE TO PERSON OR PROPERTY RESULTING FROM THE RISK OF EQUINE ACTIVITIES.** *Risk of equine activities* means dangers including but not limited to: (1) propensity of an equine to behave in ways that may result in injury, harm or death to persons on or around them; (2) unpredictability of an equine’s reaction to sounds, sudden movement, and unfamiliar objects, persons, other animals or other things; (3) certain hazards such as surface and subsurface conditions; (4) collisions with other equines or objects; and (5) the potential of a participant to act in a negligent manner that may contribute to injury, such as failing to maintain control over the animal or not acting within his or her ability.

**Risks of 4-H Shooting Sports Activities:** Shooting sports involve the use of firearms, live ammunition, or archery equipment. I understand that there are inherent dangers associated with my participation in shooting sports, including observation. The potential dangers include, among other things, gunshot or archery wounds that can result in paralysis or loss of vision, limb, or life.

**Assumption of Risks and Release of Claims:** In consideration for allowing me to participate in Extension activities, I voluntarily assume all risk of injury and loss that I may sustain or suffer in connection with my participation in the activities described in this Agreement, and I forever and fully release, waive, and discharge all claims, demands, actions, and causes of action, known or unknown, that I have or that may accrue to me in the future (“Claims”) against the Board of Trustees of the University of Illinois, its officers, employees, agents, and volunteers (individually a “Releasee”) for personal injuries (including death), damage to property, and all liabilities, losses, costs, and expenses (including attorney fees) arising out of or resulting from my participation in Extension activities, including all Claims arising, in whole or in part, from the negligence of any Releasee. This Agreement is binding on my heirs, assigns, and representatives.

**Effective Date:** This Agreement is effective on the date signed by me (“Effective Date”) and replaces any similar agreements previously signed by me as to Extension activities that occur on or after the Effective Date.

**PARTICIPANT/VOLUNTEER SIGNATURE:** \_\_\_\_\_ **DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**PRINTED NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_ **BIRTHDATE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**HOME STREET ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_ **CITY:** \_\_\_\_\_

**STATE:** \_\_\_\_\_ **ZIP:** \_\_\_\_\_ **PHONE:** \_\_\_\_\_ **EMAIL:** \_\_\_\_\_

**IF PARTICIPANT/VOLUNTEER IS UNDER 18 YEARS OLD:**

**PARENT/LEGAL GUARDIAN SIGNATURE:** \_\_\_\_\_ **DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**PRINTED NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_ **PHONE/EMAIL:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Photo/Video/Audio Release**

Yes  No I grant the University of Illinois Extension 4-H Youth Program, irrevocable permission to record and/or disclose my identity, image, and voice arising out of documenting 4-H youth programs and to use, reproduce and distribute such in whole or in part in video and/or sound recordings, films, photographs, transparencies, webpages, social media, local news media or any other media for any purpose on behalf of the University and Extension without compensations to me and without any right for me to inspect or approve of the finished photograph, video, or audio recordings or other recordings.

Volunteer Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_