



Colorado 4-H Adult Code of Conduct



4-H is the informal youth education program of Cooperative Extension through Colorado State University. Through 4-H projects and programs, youth learn life skills, citizenship, communication and decision-making techniques, leadership, interpersonal relations, and community and global awareness. 4-H helps youth form attitudes that will enable them to become self-directing, productive, and contributing members of society.

Youth learn from their experiences. Part of their experience is observing and modeling their behavior after adults they know and respect. To contribute in a positive way to youth development, Colorado 4-H leaders, volunteers, parents and other adults will:

- Conduct themselves in a mature, courteous and respectful manner, use appropriate language, exhibit honesty, good sportsmanship and act as a positive role model.
- Provide a safe learning environment, free of physical abuse, mental abuse, ethnic, racial and sexual harassment or exploitation of the 4-H member.
- Learn and live by the principles of the 4-H Pledge, 4-H Motto and 4-H Slogan.
- Adhere to all program rules, policies and guidelines including the State 4-H Dress Code and use of the 4-H Clover.
- When transporting 4-H members, have a valid Colorado driver's license and insurance as prescribed by Colorado law and maintain the vehicle so that it is safe and reliable for the conditions, weather, and distance for which it will be driven.
- Abstain from the use of alcohol and illegal drugs while participating in 4-H events/programs. These are not allowed at any 4-H sponsored program, event and/or activity where youth are present. Leaders should limit their tobacco use to areas where youth are not present. This applies to local club meetings, county, district, state, and national events.
- Respect the rights and authority of leaders, parents and Extension agents.
- Refrain from physical or verbal abuse.
- Apply rules of safety to individuals, groups, and property.
- Accept personal responsibility for behavior.

Conduct not in keeping with 4-H Youth Development standards will not be tolerated. Violation of items listed above will result in consequences to the participant. Law enforcement may be called and illegal behaviors may result in citations or arrest. Consequences may include removal at the individuals' expense and without refund from participation in the event; restitution or repayment of damages; sanctions on participation in future local, state, regional or national 4-H events; and forfeiture of financial support for this event.

4-H leaders and volunteers serve at the request of Colorado State University Cooperative Extension. That request can be withdrawn for violations to this code, other reasons or no reason at any time.