Expectations for 4-H Volunteers

Purpose of 4-H Volunteer Expectations
Families trust 4-H volunteers to provide for the health and welfare of youth participating in 4-H programs. The opportunity to work with youth is a privileged position of trust that should be held only by those who are willing to demonstrate behaviors that fulfill this trust. The following expectations for volunteers guide their involvement in Virginia 4-H programs. The purpose of these volunteer expectations is to ensure the safety and well-being of all participants (i.e., youth, their parents and families, salaried and volunteer staff).

4-H Volunteer Expectations

☐ I will represent the Virginia 4-H program by conducting myself with courteous manners and language, exhibiting good sportsmanship, serving as a positive role model, and demonstrating reasonable conflict resolution skills.

☐ I will support and promote the Virginia 4-H mission, “To develop youth and adults working with those youth to realize their full potential – becoming effective, contributing citizens through participation in research-based, informal, hands-on educational experiences.”

☐ I will actively participate in Virginia 4-H program orientation and training.

☐ I will abide by all applicable laws and Virginia 4-H program rules, policies, and guidelines. This includes, but is not limited to, child abuse, risk management, above suspicion, and substance abuse, and limits of authority.

☐ I will accept supervision and support from salaried 4-H Extension staff or designated management volunteers and understand that I work under the guidance, supervision, and leadership of the Extension Staff in charge.

☐ I will make all reasonable efforts to ensure that programs are accessible to all individuals regardless of race, color, age, sex, religion, disability, or national origin.

☐ I will not consume or allow others to use alcohol or illegal drugs at any Virginia 4-H program or event.

☐ I will, when transporting youth, operate motor vehicles and other equipment in a safe and reliable manner and only with a valid operator’s license. I will comply with all motor vehicle-related state regulations and laws. All transported youth will be secured by properly operating seat belts.

☐ I will conduct myself in a manner that is in the best interest of youth and the Virginia 4-H program and will not use the volunteer position for purposes of private or personal gain.

☐ When applicable to my 4-H responsibilities, I will treat animals in a humane manner and teach program participants to provide appropriate animal care and management.

☐ I will use technology in an appropriate manner that reflects the best practice in youth development.

Signature
I understand that these expectations represent a contractual agreement between volunteers and the Virginia 4-H program (of Virginia Cooperative Extension). My signature below indicates that I have read, understand, and agree to abide by these expectations for volunteers. I understand that suspension or termination of my position as a volunteer will result if I do not meet these expectations.

VOLUNTEER (Print) VOLUNTEER SIGNATURE DATE
EXTENSION SUPERVISOR (Print) SUPERVISOR SIGNATURE DATE
PARENT/GUARDIAN (Print) PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE DATE

(NOTE: This line must be signed for volunteers under 18 years old)

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