



## Texas 4-H Commitment to Excellence

I will exhibit traits of a person with character including trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring and citizenship.

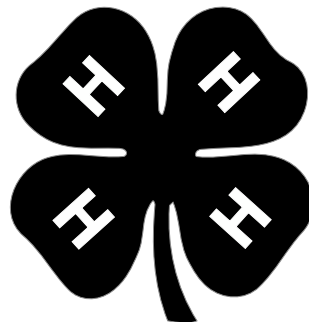
It is my attitude at the beginning of any project that will affect its successful outcome.

It is impossible to succeed without others, and it is my attitude toward other individuals that will determine their specific attitudes toward me.

Nothing can be gained by thinking negatively; therefore, I will think positively. We become what we think. I will not talk about negative ideas or gossip.

I must develop personal pride in what I am, what I do, what I say, how I act; and I must remember the destructive function of false pride.

Nothing of consequence was ever accomplished without cooperation, optimism, perseverance and enthusiasm. It is contagious when it is real, urgent, honest, human and my own!



Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

# Texas 4-H and Youth Development

## 2004-2005 Code of Conduct

### General Behavior

1. I am expected to attend all sessions that are part of the planned program for all activities. I will inform staff if I am not feeling well or have a schedule conflict.
2. I will dress appropriately to the occasion and adhere to any requirements stipulated for the event I am attending. 4-H members should be courteous, clean, and possess good manners.
3. Language must be controlled and appropriate for a 4-H member — no swearing.
4. Except for planned tours and outings, I will not leave the activity facilities at any time without the permission of the chaperone and/or staff responsible for the event.
5. I will not smoke or use tobacco products at any 4-H program event.
6. I will not use alcohol, drugs (except those directed by a doctor), or be associated with or remain in the presence of others when they are being used.
7. I will not carry a weapon or threaten another person with a weapon, bodily force or language.
8. I will respect the rights of privacy of those attending an activity and those with whom I am rooming.
9. I will observe hours established by the staff and be in my room. No boys in girls' rooms; no girls in boys' rooms.
10. I will avoid unnecessary roughness to room furnishings, furniture, equipment, etc. Towels, ashtrays, etc., are not to be taken as souvenirs. Occupants of a room or conveyance are financially responsible for any damage or results of misconduct.
11. Any participant at an official 4-H activity who observes a breach of the code of conduct has the responsibility and obligation to report the misbehavior to appropriate chaperones.
12. In the event that photographs, slides, Web pages and/or videotapes are made of the undersigned, I/we consent to the release of those photographs, slides, Web pages and/or videotapes for use in promoting the Texas 4-H and Youth Development Program.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ SS#: \_\_\_\_\_

County: \_\_\_\_\_ District: \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

# Texas 4-H and Youth Development Consequences of Misbehavior

## VIOLATORS MAY EXPECT:

To have the opportunity to explain actions to the professional Extension staff in charge. Behavior that is disruptive to the event will be documented and a letter describing such will be sent to the District office, County Extension Agent(s) and parents/guardians of those involved. Examples of offenses are as listed below, but not limited to:

### Minor Offenses

1. Habitually late to program activities.
2. Not in room at designated time.
3. Not possessing good manners and using language that is offensive to others.
4. Not respecting the rights and privacy of roommates or others attending an activity.
5. Lying or untruthfulness to chaperones, leaders, event organizers or others in attendance.

### Intermediate Offenses

1. Inappropriate visitation.
2. Leaving a 4-H activity without the permission of staff member(s) in charge.
3. Intentional damage to meeting site, sleeping quarters, person, or other person's property.

### Major Offenses

1. Smoking or using tobacco products.
2. The use of alcohol or drugs.
3. Carrying an unauthorized weapon.
4. Threatening another person with a weapon or bodily harm.
5. Cheating.
6. Theft of any kind.
7. Sexual activities.

## Consequences

- For every offense 4-H member will receive a verbal reprimand.
- For every offense the violator shall write letters of apology to the appropriate people.

## Major Offenses

- Automatic removal from event/activity and/or sending a participant home at the parents'/guardian's expense.
- Two major offenses during any 4-H year is automatic suspension of membership in all Texas 4-H and Youth Development programs for the remainder of the 4-H year, along with the possibilities of facing criminal charges, depending on offense. In addition, 4-H member may be asked to resign from all 4-H offices or leadership roles held or give up monetary awards or scholarships from the Texas 4-H program.

## Intermediate Offenses

- One or two violations is grounds for removal from the event/activity and/or sending a participant home at the parents'/guardian's expense.
- Three violations during one calendar year is grounds for the 4-H member to not be allowed in any county, district or state activities for the remainder of the 4-H year. In addition, 4-H member may be asked to resign from all 4-H offices or leadership roles held or to give up monetary awards or scholarships from the Texas 4-H program.

## Minor Offenses

- Consistent discipline problems requiring more than two reprimands is grounds for sending a 4-H member home at the parents'/guardian's expense.
- Habitual discipline problems requiring more than four reprimands during one calendar year is grounds for the 4-H member to not be allowed in any county, district or state activities for the remainder of the 4-H year. In addition, 4-H member may be asked to resign from all 4-H offices or leadership roles held or to give up monetary awards or scholarships from the Texas 4-H program.

## Course Of Action

Event managers responsible for 4-H events and activities are encouraged to communicate to 4-H participants and adult chaperones prior to the event a standard of acceptable behavior, via the Commitment to Excellence. Standards of behavior and consequences of misbehavior should be reviewed with participants as part of the initial orientation.

1. Event manager obtain all the relevant facts.
2. Brief the on-site adult responsible for the youth delegate (Extension faculty member or 4-H volunteer).
3. If not on-site, but available via phone, brief the county Extension faculty member and District office faculty member responsible.
4. Review consequences of misbehavior. The following steps should be taken when sending a 4-H member home:
  - Extension faculty member contacts parents.
  - Parents advised that child is being sent home by safest, most direct means, and that parents are responsible for cost.
  - Event manager decides if parents should be given the option of picking up the child.
  - County Extension faculty member collects money from parent to pay transportation charges.
  - Follow-up correspondence from events manager to appropriate county Extension faculty member, District office faculty member, child and parent for documentation.
5. For all reprimands a Summary Letter and Accident/Incident Report Form will be completed and mailed to the 4-H member, parent, County Extension Agents, District office faculty member responsible, County Extension Directors (if applicable), 4-H Specialist responsible, and the Assistant Directors for 4-H & Youth and County Programs. Additionally, notification will be made to the District office prior to letter and form being mailed.

I have read the Texas 4-H Commitment to Excellence and understand what violators may expect. I agree with the Code of Conduct and do intend to abide by it throughout my 4-H activities. I have reviewed and understand the Consequences of Misbehavior.

\_\_\_\_\_  
4-H Member's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
County

\_\_\_\_\_  
District

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

As the parent or guardian of \_\_\_\_\_, I have read the commitment and do support all points. I give permission to the professional Extension faculty in charge to carry out the Code of Conduct as described including inspection of rooms.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent or Guardian

(\_\_\_\_)\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date