Extension Service
West Virginia University

4-H Youth Development

West Virginia 4-H Volunteer Code of Conduct
(Provided for volunteer and Extension professional signatures)

This Code of Conduct is a contractual agreement accepted by volunteers who commit to the 4-H program. The Code of Conduct shall guide their behavior during their involvement in West Virginia 4-H. Just as it is a privilege for the West Virginia University Extension Service to work with individuals who volunteer their time and energies to West Virginia 4-H, a volunteer's involvement in West Virginia 4-H is a privilege and a responsibility, not a right.

The West Virginia 4-H program provides quality, educational programs accessible to all West Virginia youths. The primary purpose of this Code of Conduct is to ensure the safety and well-being of all 4-H participants (members, their parents and families, professionals, and volunteers).

West Virginia 4-H volunteers are expected to function within the guidelines of the West Virginia Extension Service and the West Virginia 4-H program. West Virginia 4-H volunteers shall be individuals of personal integrity.

West Virginia 4-H volunteers will:

- Uphold volunteerism as an effective way to meet the needs of youths and adults.
- Uphold an individual's right to dignity, self-development, and self-direction.
- Accept supervision and support from professional Extension staff while involved in the program.
- Accept the responsibility to represent their individual county 4-H program and the West Virginia 4-H program with dignity and pride by being positive mentors for the youths with whom they work.
- Conduct themselves in a courteous and respectful manner, exhibit good sportsmanship and provide positive role models for all youths.
- Respect, adhere to, and enforce the rules, policies, and guidelines established by their individual county 4-H program, the West Virginia 4-H program, and the West Virginia University Extension Service.
- Not abuse any 4-H participant by physical or verbal means and will report such abuse, if observed, as outlined in the West Virginia University Extension Service Youth Protection Policy.
- Not commit a felonious criminal act.
- Comply with equal opportunity and anti-discrimination laws.
- Discharge duties in a responsible and timely manner.
- Promote a welcoming environment by fostering a climate based on social justice.
- Report immediately any threats to the volunteer's emotional or physical well-being to the county 4-H professional.
- Accept the responsibility to promote and support 4-H in order to develop an effective county, state, and national program.
- Handle animals and operate machinery, vehicles, and other equipment in a responsible manner.

I have read and understand the Code of Conduct outlined above. I understand and agree that any action on my part that contradicts any portion of this Code of Conduct is grounds for the suspension and/or termination of my volunteer status with the West Virginia 4-H program.

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Signature of 4-H Volunteer Date

_____ _____

Signature of Extension Professional Date