

4-H Adult Agreement

Working in Programs and Activities with Minors

OSU Extension 4-H Youth Development Programs are committed to serving all youth (within age requirements) who are interested in learning and growing in 4-H. Adults are role models and guides. Adults support positive youth development when they provide safe environments as an important part of 4-H programming.

As a condition of involvement in the OSU 4-H Youth Development Program, as defined in University Policy 07-040 (Safety of Minors), all employees and volunteers must review the *Standards of Behavior* prior to working in a youth program, and annually. The statements below reflect that policy, as of the date of this document. To view the most current policies any time, go to: <http://blogs.oregonstate.edu/youthsafety/appendix/c/>

As a volunteer, parent or support adult in OSU Extension 4-H programs/activities:

- I will abide by the OSU, Extension and 4-H Code of Ethics, including:
 - I will use resources wisely, ethically, and prudently to achieve the 4-H educational mission.
 - I will accept responsibility for personal choices and actions; not assign or shift blame or credit.
 - I will treat others courteously. Be a positive role model. Exhibit good sportsmanship.
 - I will demonstrate honesty and make decisions based upon the greater good.
- I understand that I am responsible for reading and following rules and guidelines set by the program, as well applicable university policies, local, state, federal laws.
- I will accept support and/or guidance from Extension program staff, supervisors or designees.
- I will focus on the educational mission of the land grant university, making 4-H programming available to all youth under the equal opportunity policies. (4-H programs are accessible without regard to race, color, religion, gender, gender identity, national origin, age, marital status, disability, and veteran status.) I will demonstrate respect toward the rights and dignity of others; show concern for the welfare of others; expect equality and impartiality; refrain from discriminating against, harassing, or threatening others.
- I will ensure that there are adequate levels of supervision for youth during programming.
- I will establish and maintain safe environments for all participants. I understand that I will not be alone with a single, unrelated youth in the context of a university program or activity. If one-on-one time is necessary, we will meet in an open area within sight or sound of another adult in the program.
- I will limit communication with minors to topics related to educational and program purposes. I will include a second adult when conducting virtual interactions and online communications (i.e., text messaging, email, phone, social media, etc.) with minors in a manner that is consistent with the general youth safety and supervision guidelines.
- I will act responsibly to protect participants and keep information confidential (e.g., health forms) and limited to those who need-to-know.





- I will provide for physical and emotional needs of participants during programs. Communicate and model that verbal, emotional, or physical mistreatment is unacceptable. I will not administer corporal punishment.
- I will act quickly to report known or suspected child abuse or neglect in accordance with Oregon State Statute and OSU reporting requirements.
- I will only release minors to authorized parents, guardians or others as requested in writing by the parent/guardian.
- I will not use alcohol, marijuana, or other mind-altering drugs, or be under those influences, while responsible for youth or OSU Extension 4-H programs.
- While planning fundraising, I will help ensure that the promotion and activities are approved through Extension staff to ensure appropriate use of the 4-H Name & Emblem. Handle fundraising and funds in accordance with OSU university and national 4-H regulations. *(As public assets, 4-H funds must be used for educational purposes and never deposited into an individual's bank account.)*
- I will handle equipment and machinery in a safe and responsible manner, including having a valid operator's license and required insurance coverage.
- In my role, I will provide appropriate care and treat animals humanely. I will help others do the same.
- I will promptly report to my supervisor, any violation of law or university policy about which I become aware, including harassment, sexual misconduct, illegal or fraudulent activity, conflicts of interest or other unethical conduct in the 4-H Youth Development Program.
- As a volunteer, I will notify the Office of Human Resources or Dept of Public Safety within 3 days if I plead guilty or am being convicted of a felony, sex offense or crime (e.g., involving youth, funds, weapons, drugs).

The purpose of this '4-H Adult Agreement' is to clarify responsibilities of adults regarding safety and well-being of youth. It is a privilege, not a right, to work in 4-H Youth Development Programs. Individual actions contrary to the statements above may be grounds for non-acceptance, suspension or dismissal from an OSU 4-H volunteer role, and/or participation in OSU 4-H activity(s).

Sign _____ Date _____

Print Name _____

CHECK ALL THAT APPLY

I am a: ___ 4-H Volunteer ___ 4-H Parent/Guardian ___ Person Responsible for a 4-H Youth

Oct. 2020

Sources: OSU Code of Ethics (July 2014 00475607;1) and OSU Extension 4-H Code of Ethics (July 2017)

OSU Extension 4-H Volunteer Development, 4-H Program Leader, OSU Extension Regional Directors, County 4-H Professionals

