



Adult Volunteer Code of Conduct

(PAGE RETAINED BY THE 4-H ADULT VOLUNTEER)

We appreciate your volunteer service to the University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources (UC ANR) and the valuable link you provide to local communities. When in the course and scope of your duties, you are considered an agent of the University of California (UC) and have the following rights and responsibilities.

Your Responsibilities:

1. Maintain a professional presence and dress when acting as a volunteer (see [California 4-H Dress Guidelines](#)).
2. Recognize, honor and uphold the responsibility and authority of the statewide and local program staff in setting program priorities, standards and direction.
3. Be committed to the core values, educational goals, and quality standards of the statewide program.
4. Respect and safeguard the individual rights, talents, safety, and property of program participants.
5. Take personal responsibility for the resolution of any interpersonal conflict that may arise, whether with fellow volunteers, program participants, program staff and/or other UC personnel; thereby demonstrating positive conflict resolution skills to all involved.
6. Prohibit discrimination against or harassment of any person in any statewide program or statewide program activity (see [UC ANR Nondiscrimination and Affirmative Action Policy](#)).
7. When driving on UC business, possess a valid California driver's license and carry proof of the minimum automobile liability insurance required by UC; and ensure that all passengers use seat belts.
8. Report volunteer hours on a regular basis as required by the statewide program (see [UC Master Food Preserver Policy Handbook](#), and [UC Master Gardener Policy Handbook](#)).
9. Follow UC guidance for all program financial matters and provide receipts for any money collected in the name of UC.
10. Adhere to and help enforce program policies and procedures referred to in the Policy Handbook (see [4-H Policy Handbook](#), [UC Master Food Preserver Policy Handbook](#), and [UC Master Gardener Policy Handbook](#)).
11. Be recognized as an agent of the UC when working in the course and scope of your volunteer duties by wearing your program name badge (see [UC Master Food Preserver Policy Handbook](#), and [UC Master Gardener Policy Handbook](#)).

Your Rights:

1. To be respected by program staff.
2. To have access to current program materials, training, and curriculum to support program delivery.
3. To be informed of any infraction that may or does result in corrective action or dismissal from the program.
4. To make written complaints concerning statewide programs, policies or personnel as described in the Policy Handbook (see [4-H Policy Handbook](#), [UC Master Food Preserver Policy Handbook](#), and [UC Master Gardener Policy Handbook](#)).

The following are prohibited when acting on behalf of a UC ANR statewide program:

1. Failure to act in a supportive and cooperative manner with program stakeholders, failure to adhere to the programmatic goals established by the program staff and/or failure to support [UC ANR's Principles of Community](#).

Adult Volunteer Code of Conduct – page 2

(PAGE RETAINED BY THE 4-H ADULT VOLUNTEER)

2. Violation of the UC ANR Volunteer Agreement or Adult Volunteer Code of Conduct.
3. Possession or use of alcohol, tobacco/tobacco products, e-cigarettes, marijuana/marijuana products, illegal drugs and/or other inappropriate materials (or to be under the influence thereof) when involved in a statewide program activity.
4. Use of abusive, obscene and discriminatory language at any program activity.
5. Attack or harassment of another person; whether visual, verbal, physical and/or by the use of social media.
6. Private, one-on-one interactions with youth members at *any time*, both during program activities and outside of program activities, (other than as approved by the youth member's parent/guardian), or an exceptional circumstance such as an emergency.
7. A romantic relationship with any youth member at *any time*.
8. Behavior that is illegal, unsafe, or contrary to the highest standard of ethics (see [Regents Policy 1111](#)).

Consequences:

All UC ANR volunteers and trainees shall act in ways that promote and support statewide program goals and do not conflict with statewide program policies and procedures. Infractions of this Adult Volunteer Code of Conduct should be reported promptly by anyone observing them to program staff. The UCCE County Director may, if necessary and with guidance from the Statewide Volunteer Coordinator, immediately limit, suspend or terminate the services of any statewide program volunteer.

Further, the UCCE County Director may, if necessary in their sole judgment, waive the formal review process and immediately suspend or terminate a volunteer if in the best interest of the program (e.g., a potential threat to public safety, receipt of notice that the volunteer is the subject of a criminal investigation, and/or other conditions that cannot be remedied with corrective action). In such instances, the decision of the UCCE County Director* is final. The [Conflict Resolution Manual](#) is intended to serve as a process guide for working through infractions.

*When referring to regional (outside the authority of a single County Director) or state level infractions this authority extends to the Statewide Program Director.

Photograph and Information Release

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