



Parent/Adult Behavior Guidelines

*The California 4-H Youth Development Program strives to provide quality leadership for youth participating in 4-H programs, events, and activities. 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. **Parents and adults helping in the 4-H Youth Development Program are expected to:***

1. Treat others in a courteous, respectful manner demonstrating ethical behaviors appropriate to a positive role model for youth.
2. Abide by policies and guidelines of the California 4-H Youth Development Program state and county 4-H programs.
3. Obey all laws of the locality, state, and nation, including those related to use of illegal substances, or use of firearms.
4. Recognize that verbal, sexual, physical abuse, and/or neglect of youth is unacceptable either within or outside the 4-H Youth Development Program.
5. Treat animals humanely and teach 4-H youth to provide appropriate animal care.
6. Operate machinery, vehicles, and other equipment in a safe and responsible manner, and only with a valid operator's license and the legally required insurance coverage.
7. Handle fundraising and finances in an ethical manner according to the policies and guidelines of the 4-H Youth Development Program.
8. Do not consume alcohol while responsible for youth in 4-H activities nor allow 4-H youth participants under your supervision to consume alcohol or illegal substances.
9. Deliver your child on time for events and meetings, and pick-up at the agreed upon time.
10. Avoid the use of obscene, impolite, and/or discriminatory language at any 4-H activity or where youth are present.

Consequences

Parents and adults participating with the California 4-H Youth Development Program are expected to abide by these guidelines. If parents and/or adults do not follow these guidelines, they may be barred or censored from attending 4-H activities. These guidelines are issued by the State 4-H Office. Please note that counties may have stricter standards of behavior.

Parents and adults helping in the 4-H Youth Development Program are encouraged to:

11. Be respectful of youth and adult leaders, the lesson plan and the leadership. Allow leaders to lead.
12. Attend meetings and participate in activities and events. 4-H is more than just a drop-off program.
13. Support your child's efforts by providing resources and supplies for projects.
14. Follow through when you volunteer.
15. Keep your expectations open; true knowledge and life skills take time to develop.
16. Provide encouragement and support, and allow your child to experience the process of 4-H, no matter the outcome. Encourage children to do their best, not to be better than someone else.
17. Respect youth ownership of projects. Allow your child to do his/her own project.
18. Encourage your child to focus on the positive in the experience or situation and turn away from emphasis on competition.
19. Allow your child to make mistakes, thereby fostering learning through correcting the mistake.
20. Observe a "cool off" time before presenting constructive criticism to a child after any competitive situation.
21. Mentor a child who is not your own. We tend to act differently with other people's children.
22. Avoid intruding on your child's 4-H achievements. Consider completing the process to become an appointed 4-H volunteer so you can develop your own 4-H experience.

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