



4-H Youth Protection Policy

CODE OF ETHICS STAFF & VOLUNTEERS ARE EXPECTED TO OBSERVE

Work within the University of Missouri Extension 4-H system

- Seek training for my volunteer role which will help me work more effectively with youth and adults.
- Contact the county youth specialist if my legal status changes.
- Be accountable for my actions to the county 4-H Council [or similar policy-setting body], county University of Missouri Extension Council, Missouri 4-H Youth Development Programs, and University of Missouri Extension. If my personal conduct is deemed by these bodies to violate this agreement or if I fail to meet any of the stated policy statements, I know I may be relieved of my 4-H duties.

Provide a Safe Environment

- Treat all youth and adults equally, without discrimination. This includes providing equal access to participation for all youth and adults, regardless of race, creed, color, sex, national origin or disability.
- Avoid harming youth or adults, whether through sexual harassment, physical force, verbal or mental abuse or neglect.
- Obey the laws of the locality, state and nation. This includes abstaining from alcohol or any illegal substance use while working with, or responsible for youth; neither will I allow youth to do so while under my supervision.
- As an Extension representative, fulfill my obligation as a mandated reporter if I believe there is or has been child abuse or neglect or I take a report of child abuse or neglect. I know I should contact the Missouri Child Abuse/Neglect Hotline at 1-800-392-3738 (TDD 1-800-669-8689), the MU Extension staff person who directly supervises my 4-H volunteer service and, if I believe it is warranted, local law enforcement.

Provide a Supportive Environment

- Treat all youth with respect, caring and acceptance.
- Honor my volunteer commitment. I will live up to my volunteer commitment by working the hours necessary to fulfill my role.
- Keep records, distribute materials and support the 4-H system. I will share 4-H materials to youth and adults. I will keep and submit required records on time. I will help youth and adults with enrollment, active participation and recognition.

Provide an Interactive and Engaging Environment

- Work as a “team player” for the good of all persons. I will work cooperatively with others for the good of all in the program.
- Strive to be a positive role model at all times by consistently demonstrating respect, cooperation, honesty and fair play.
- Use a democratic approach when working with youth, as they are valuable and capable of helping others and their community.

Note: During enrollment in the 4HOnline system, youth, parents/guardians and volunteers must accept the policies of Missouri 4-H in order to participate in programs and events.