



Module 1 – Why Character Development - Handout

Six Pillars of Character SM

Trustworthiness

Integrity

- Stand up for your beliefs, follow your conscience, be honorable and upright.
- Live by your principles no matter what others say.
- Have the courage to do what is right and to try new things even when it is hard or costly.
- Build and guard your reputation.

Honesty

- Tell the truth and nothing but the truth.
- Be sincere.
- Be forthright and candid.

Reliability

- Keep your promises.
- Honor your word and commitments.
- Be dependable
- Do what you are supposed to do.
- Return what you borrow.
- Pay your debts and be on time.

Loyalty

- Stand by and protect your family, friends, school and country.
- Be a good friend.
- Look out for those who care about you.
- Keep secrets of those who trust you.

Respect

Golden Rule

- Treat others the way you want to be treated.

- Respect the dignity, privacy and freedom of all individuals.
- Value and honor all people, no matter what they can do for you or to you.
- Respect others' property – take good care of property you are allowed to use and don't take or use property without permission.
- Respect the autonomy of others – tell them what they should know to make good choices about their own lives.

Tolerance and Acceptance

- Judge others on their character, abilities, and conduct without regard to race, religion, gender, where they live, how they dress, or the amount of money they have.
- Be tolerant, respectful, and accepting of those who are different from you.
- Listen to others and try to understand their points of view.

Nonviolence

- Resolve disagreements, respond to insults, and deal with anger peacefully and without violence.

Courtesy

- Use good manners.
- Be courteous, polite and civil to everyone.

Responsibility

Duty

- Know and do your duty.
- Acknowledge and meet your legal and moral obligations.

Accountability

- Accept responsibility for the consequences of your choices, not only for what you do but what you don't do.
- Think about consequences affecting you and others before you act.
- Think long-term.
- Do what you can do to make things better.
- Set a good example.

Pursue Excellence

- Your best.
- Persevere.
- Don't quit.
- Be prepared.
- Be diligent.
- Work hard.
- Make all you do worthy of pride.

Self-Control

- Take charge of your own life.
- Set realistic goals.
- Keep a positive outlook.
- Be prudent and self-disciplined with your health, emotions, time and money.
- Be rational – act out of reason not anger, revenge or fear.
- Know the difference between what you have a right to do and what is right to do.
- Be self-reliant – manage your life so you are not dependent on others.
- Pay your own way whenever you can.

Fairness

Justice

- Be fair and just.
- Treat people equally.
- Make decisions without favoritism or prejudice.
- When imposing punishment be sure the consequences for wrongdoing are consistent, certain, and proportional (not too harsh or lenient.)

Openness

- Be open-minded and impartial – consider what people have to say before you decide.
- Be careful – get the facts, including opposing viewpoints, before making decisions (especially blaming or accusing another.)

Caring

Concern for Others

- Be compassionate and empathetic.
- Be kind, loving and considerate.
- Be thankful and express gratitude for what

people do for you.

- Forgive others for their shortcomings.

Charity

- Be charitable and altruistic – give money, time, support, and comfort without strings for the sake of making someone else's life better, not for praise or gratitude.
- Help people in need.

Citizenship

Do Your Share

- Be a good citizen and a good neighbor.
- Care about and pursue the common good.
- Be a volunteer – help your school and community be better, cleaner, and safer.
- Protect the environment by conserving resources, reducing pollution, and cleaning up after yourself.
- Participate in making things better by voicing your opinion, voting, serving on committees, reporting wrongdoing and paying taxes.

Respect Authority and the Law

- Play by the rules.
- Obey parents, teachers, coaches and others who have been given authority.
- Observe just laws.
- Honor and respect principles of democracy.

An Effective Character Development Program Is...

- Purposeful
- Pervasive
- Repetitive
- Consistent
- Creative
- Concrete

T.E.A.M. Approach

- Teach the nature and importance of character, the definitions and application of the Six Pillars, ways of predicting consequences and considering how choices affect various stakeholders; decision-making strategies.
- Enforce the rules, policies, regulations, procedures and codes of conducts; be consistent and fair.
- Advocate by clearly, continually and vigorously communicating the importance Missouri 4-H attaches to character.
- Model character.

4-H Pledge I Pledge...

My head to clearer thinking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ <i>be open minded</i> ◆ <i>do what is right even if no one else is doing it</i> ◆ <i>pursue excellence in everything</i> ◆ <i>take responsibility for my own actions</i>
My heart to greater loyalty	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ <i>be a person of high integrity</i> ◆ <i>tell the truth at all times and in all places</i> ◆ <i>keep my word</i> ◆ <i>be the kind of friend I would like to have</i>
My hands to larger service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ <i>volunteer in the community</i> ◆ <i>protect my neighbor, the environment and our natural resources</i> ◆ <i>promote good citizenship</i>
My health to better living	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ <i>show concern to others</i> ◆ <i>be kind, considerate and compassionate</i> ◆ <i>treat people fairly</i> ◆ <i>respect myself and those in authority</i>
<p>For my club, my community, my country and my world. <i>I will use my abilities to "Make the Best Better" for everyone</i></p>	

CHARACTER COUNTS! and the Six Pillars of Character are service marks of the CHARACTER COUNTS! Coalition, a project of the Josephson Institute of Ethics.
www.charactercounts.org