

Kansas 4-H Volunteer Code of Ethics

Youth Protection Policy

The mission of Kansas 4-H Youth Development is “Kansas 4-H Youth Development uses unique strategies and opportunities to engage youth in reaching their full potential through partnerships with caring adults.” Volunteers are key to fulfilling this mission. This policy establishes expectations of all those who work with children and youth. These statements represent a code of ethics that all volunteers and paid staff are expected to observe.

As a Kansas 4-H Volunteer, I will:

1. Work within the 4-H program. As a 4-H volunteer, I am accountable to the local club, the appropriate Extension Unit, the Kansas 4-H Youth Development Program, K-State Research and Extension, and Kansas State University for my actions.
2. Work as a “team player” for the good of the 4-H program. I will work cooperatively with youth, other volunteers and extension staff and treat them with respect.
3. Honor my volunteer commitment.
4. Keep records, distribute materials and support the 4-H system.
5. Follow established guidelines for keeping financial records and handling 4-H funds.
6. I will participate in meetings, self-study, or other training programs which will help me work more effectively with young people and adults.
7. Make all reasonable efforts to assure equal access to participation for all youth and adults. Kansas State University is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity employer committed to non-discrimination on the basis of race, sex, national origin, disability, religion, age, sexual orientation, or other non-merit reasons.
8. Provide a safe environment. I will not harm youth or adults in any way, whether through sexual harassment, physical force, verbal or mental abuse, neglect, or other harmful experiences.
9. Not use alcohol or any illegal substances (or be under its influences) while working with or being responsible for youth, or allow youth to do so while under my supervision.
10. Operate machinery, vehicles, and other equipment in a safe and responsible manner. When operating a motor vehicle, I will have a valid driver’s license and the legally required insurance coverage.
11. Role-model the character traits of trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring and citizenship.
12. Promote and practice the responsible and ethical stewardship of livestock and/or companion animal projects.
13. Obey the laws of the locality, state and nation and K-State Research and Extension and 4-H Youth Development policies and guidelines.
14. Use technology and social media in safe and appropriate ways for the enhancement and promotion of the 4-H Youth Development program.