



# VOLUNTEER BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS FOR WI 4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Families and youth-serving organizations trust the University of Wisconsin-Extension to provide quality leadership and care for youth who are involved in Extension-sponsored programs. The opportunity to work with youth is a privileged position that should be held only by those who are willing to demonstrate behaviors that fulfill this trust.

All 4-H youth development volunteers working with youth are required to complete the Wisconsin 4-H Youth Protection program. This includes: a) a background check for arrest and conviction records, b) participation in a volunteer orientation program, and c) signing the Volunteer Behavior Expectations form. The primary purpose of this process is to ensure the safety and well-being of all participants (i.e., youth, their parents and families, salaried and volunteer staff).

4-H youth development volunteers are expected to abide by the following behavior standards established by UW-Extension/4-H, and to conduct themselves as positive role models for youth. All 4-H youth development volunteers are ultimately accountable to UW-Extension for their 4-H-related activities. As a 4-H Youth Development Volunteer, I will:

- Conduct myself with courteous manners and language, exhibiting good sportsmanship, serving as a positive role model, treating others with respect, and demonstrating reasonable conflict resolution skills.
- Abide by all local, state and federal laws and UW-Extension and U.S.D.A. rules, policies and guidelines.
- Accept supervision and support from Extension staff or designated management volunteers.
- Make all reasonable efforts to ensure that programs are accessible to all individuals regardless of race, color, sex, creed, disability, religion, national origin, ancestry, age, sexual orientation, pregnancy, marital or parental status.
- Not consume alcohol or illegal substances while responsible for youth in 4-H activities, nor allow 4-H youth participants under my supervision to do so.
- When transporting youth, operate motor vehicles and other equipment in a safe and reliable manner and only with a valid operator's license and the legally required insurance. I will comply with all motor vehicle-related state regulations and laws. All transported youth will be secured by a properly operating seat belt.
- Conduct myself in a manner that is in the best interest of youth and University of Wisconsin-Extension/4-H Youth Development and will not use the volunteer position for purposes of private or personal gain.
- Recognize that verbal, sexual, physical abuse and/or neglect of youth is unacceptable. Report suspected abuse.
- Treat animals in a humane manner and teach program participants to provide appropriate animal care and management.

I have read, understand, and agree to abide by these expectations for volunteers. I understand that suspension or termination of my position as a volunteer will result if I do not meet these expectations.

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**Print Name**

\_\_\_\_\_

**County**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Volunteer Signature**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Date**

The County UW-Extension Office receives one signed copy and the volunteer receives one copy.

