

CODE OF ETHICS

for

4-H Adult Volunteers

We, the members of the NC 4-H Volunteer Leaders' Association, value and encourage lifelong learning. Adhering to the 4-H Mission and the policies and guidelines of North Carolina Cooperative Extension, we commit to provide opportunities to inform, educate, and support each other to better serve the youth of North Carolina. We recognize the worth and dignity of every individual, and believe that the development of life skills enables young people to become caring, competent and capable citizens who will build strong foundations for our future. We strive to be appropriate role models and to maintain the respect and confidence of colleagues, youth, 4-H Youth Development Professionals, parents, and/or legal guardians and the communities we serve.

To uphold these commitments, we as 4-H adult volunteers:

- Represent the interests of volunteers, parents, and youth from culturally diverse backgrounds and various levels of commitment.
- Are advocates for youth and leaders to foster cultural understanding and international goodwill in communities, the state, and the nation.
- Are committed to helping youth develop positive understanding of self and reach their full potential.
- Use developmentally and age-appropriate methods and materials and meet learning style differences.
- Are positive role models who develop through continuous learning and doing.
- Maintain appropriate relationships with youth and adults in all settings.
- Recognize the importance of appropriate dress, oral and written communication and behavior.
- Provide a safe, nurturing environment that allows youth and adults to reach their full potential.
- Recognize achievement based on the performance, effort and ability of youth and adults.
- Treat all individuals in a fair and consistent manner.
- Hold in confidence information learned in a volunteer role, except for compliance with pertinent regulations or statutes.
- Are committed to effective communications and interaction among all levels of the association and Extension staff.
- Initiate and participate in cooperative efforts with other Extension programs and agencies.
- Are knowledgeable of the North Carolina 4-H Volunteer Leaders' Association to justify increased support from the communities at large.
- Seek to understand the needs and interests of partners; identify appropriate resources and develop working relationships to effectively meet assessed needs.
- Recognize the responsibility for, and the importance of, accountability in the management of funds and other assets, both public and private.
- Take action to remedy an observed violation of the Code of Ethics and promote a clear understanding of the principles of adult volunteer ethics.
- Recognize the need and right for personal, family and social development outside of the adult volunteer role.
- Recognize the need and right to pursue emotional, physical and spiritual health.
- Are committed to excellence.