4-H California Focus Chaperone Description

General Description

The University of California 4-H Youth Development Program strives to provide healthy and positive environments that help members reach their full potential. The role and performance of a chaperone can significantly influence the positive outcomes of youth participation at overnight events.

Chaperones who are selected are expected to serve as a representative and partner of the University of California 4-H State Office and participate in all scheduled activities as prescribed by the selected event. All chaperones are “on duty” 24 hours a day with responsibility to the entire group and itinerary at all times.

Qualifications

Chaperones must be a current 4-H adult volunteer at least 21 years old, in good standing with their county, who has:

- Knowledge of the University of California 4-H Youth Development Program, its mission, core values and policies;
- One full program year of volunteerism in the University of California 4-H Youth Development Program;
- A passion to see youth become civic-minded citizens and better leaders;
- The ability to work as a member of a team to guide middle school and/or high school youth through a prescribed itinerary and timeline in a conference setting;
- Commitment to complete all agreed upon duties and assignments;
- Basic understanding and ability to use current technology communication tools (Zoom, Text, Email);
- Completed the required online training in eXtension: Foundations of Positive Youth Development and Overnight Chaperone Essentials.
Essential Functions

Chaperones must have the physical, emotional, and cognitive ability plus strength and endurance to:

- Accompany and supervise youth in all program areas, as needed for the event;
- Move long distances without taking breaks (several blocks with most youth walking);
- Supervise youth in both structured and unstructured activity;
- Interact verbally with youth in a variety of situations;
- Assist youth in emergency situations (fire, injury, etc.);
- Perform in large groups of people;
- Perform in loud working environments.

Chaperone Duties

- Ensure that 4-H youth are safe (both emotionally and physically) for the entire experience;
- Act as a positive role model for youth;
- Model the behavior expected from youth;
- Monitor behavior of 4-H members. If there is a problem, talk to the appropriate conference staff member to determine the appropriate level of corrective action needed;
- Take responsibility for enforcing 4-H policy;
- Ensure that at least one chaperone goes with each group of young people if the itinerary requires splitting the group into smaller groups;
- Participate in all meetings, webinars, and conference calls for the conference;
- Guide youth to follow the prescribed itinerary and timeline;
- Communicates regularly with all members of the team;
- Coach delegates in the development and implementation of an approved service learning project;
- Communicate via email, phone, or text as needed. Chaperone must provide their own phone.
- Willing to supervise youth from different counties.
Relationships

The chaperone builds relationships with:

- California 4-H State Office staff;
- Youth attending the conference;
- 4-H County YDP staff;
- Conference staff;
- Other adults at the conference.

Time required

The chaperone allows sufficient time for:

- Completion of all required paperwork by prescribed due dates;
- Completion of all required online professional development courses;
- Participation in up to 3 teleconference or webinar meetings, approximately one hour each, before the conference;
- Attend the entire conference, from Friday at 3:30 pm to Tuesday at 1:30 pm.

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