



4-H Adult Agreement

As a parent in the 4-H Program, your participation is important for the success of your child. This adult agreement will outline your participation in the program and help us to better communicate in a positive manner.

Please read the following statements and sign at the bottom.

As a parent of a 4-H member, I agree to the following:

My Responsibilities

- ✓ Attend my child's community club meetings in order to learn about upcoming events, meeting dates, community service and club functions. Record the correct information and help teach my child to become more independent and responsible.
- ✓ Assume all project costs, unless the project has local fundraisers to offset the cost.
- ✓ Make sure my child attends their project meetings.
- ✓ Phone the leader prior to the date of the meeting if my child cannot attend a community or project meeting.
- ✓ Provide transportation to and from local and county 4-H meetings and activities in a timely manner.
- ✓ Attend project meetings when required by the leader.
- ✓ Make suggestions. My input is welcomed and is best given in a constructive, polite manner, understanding that leaders and board members are volunteers.
- ✓ Volunteer to help in areas of interest.
- ✓ Help each of my children enrolled in 4-H sell a minimum of 4 Chicken Que tickets for the countywide awards program.
- ✓ Participate in club level fundraising as well.
- ✓ Participate in county, sectional and state events as related to my child's interest.
- ✓ Be willing to represent my club at the Council meeting. Each Club is required to send a representative to each of the meetings (total of 9 each year) to bring back information to the club. All leaders and members 16 years and older are voting members of the Council.

4-H Adult Code of Conduct

- ✓ Possession or use of alcohol, tobacco, and/or illegal drugs (or being under the influence thereof) when involved in a 4-H event or activity is prohibited.
- ✓ Use of abusive, obscene or discriminatory language at any 4-H activity, event, project or community meeting is prohibited.
- ✓ Direct personal attack or harassment (visual, verbal or physical) towards another person is prohibited. This includes shouting at Volunteer Leaders, youth and other parents.
- ✓ Behavior that is illegal, unsafe or contrary to the highest standards of ethics is prohibited.

- ✓ Being the subject of a criminal investigation or prosecution for a misdemeanor or felony offense will result in removal from the 4-H program.

If I have Concerns with Project Leaders...

- ✓ The first obligation is to talk to the leader directly. If that is not successful, the next step is to talk to the community leader. The final step is to talk to the 4-H office and fill out a complaint form and follow the process. We have found over the years that when people talk together about concerns, in most cases issues can be resolved locally with positive results.
- ✓ When talking with the Project Leader, be respectful when stating your concerns. Avoid any personal attacks and focus on the facts.

If I have Concerns with Community Leaders...

- ✓ If you have concerns with your Community Leader's actions, set up an appointment and talk with them directly. If you feel you cannot discuss things openly, ask another neutral adult to attend the meeting and serve as a mediator.
- ✓ When talking with the Community Leader, be respectful when stating your concerns. Avoid any personal attacks and present the facts.
- ✓ If problems can't be resolved, contact the 4-H office and ask for a complaint form. Follow the procedure.

If I have Concerns with the 4-H Program Overall...

- ✓ Follow the principals of confidentiality: do not discuss the problem throughout the county. Gossip is damaging to everyone and often makes the situation much worse and harder to resolve.
- ✓ Once the situation has been resolved, move on and let it go.
- ✓ Remember, we are modeling our behavior for young people. Teaching youth how to work in difficult situations is excellent preparation for dealing with future conflict.

I Have the Right...

- ✓ To have access to current program materials, training and curriculum to support my child's project.
- ✓ To actively participate in communications with other adults and 4-H staff.
- ✓ To choose programs with my children that best meets their needs, as long as they meet the criteria.
- ✓ To fill out a complaint form and follow its process if direct communication is not successful in dealing with program concerns.

If Infractions Occur...

- ✓ I understand that I may be asked not to attend 4-H functions with my child(ren).
- ✓ In certain severe situations, adults may be released to a law enforcement agency.
- ✓ Discuss inappropriate actions of others with the Community Leaders and/or 4-H Staff. Include suggestions on how the situation can be improved.

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I understand that the above commitments are part of my responsibility as a parent in the 4-H Program. Furthermore, I understand that it is my responsibility to provide an environment for my child that includes positive communication and problem solving solutions. I know that I must lead by example. Clear communication and expectations between adults are essential if the experience is to be optimal. Lack of communication often causes conflicts between adults, which then negatively affects the youth.

Parent/Guardian Name (please print) _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____

Club _____ Date _____