



## Code of Conduct

The 4-H Pledge does a great job of stating what we hope young people will learn and do in 4-H. ***I pledge my head to clearer thinking*** - means a 4-H'er is committed to learn the knowledge and skills to enable them to make wise decisions through opportunities that develop Independence, an Essential Element of 4-H. And by gaining a sense of independence, the 4-H'er is committed to exercise self-discipline, personal responsibility and become an independent thinker.

Therefore, the youth, by signing this form, agrees to conduct him/herself in a responsible manner and abide by all expectations as stated:

1. Attend all National 4-H Conference activities. Be on time and participate in all scheduled sessions including recreation, evening activities and delegation meetings. Any unauthorized absence is not permitted. Those not feeling well must inform a chaperone.
2. Remain on the premises or assigned event area throughout the conference; unauthorized absence is not permitted.
3. Engage and interact with other 4-H members, conference guests, volunteer leaders, Cooperative Extension staff, presenters, and others in a courteous and respectful manner.
4. Cooperate with adult chaperone's and conference staff's leadership. Contact the adult chaperone in regard to any conflict or problems during the event.
5. Show respect and courtesy for programs and speakers in progress by remaining for the entirety of each events/activity and show courtesy when taking flash photos during speeches and entertainment.
6. Behave in ways that are acceptable to other delegates, adult chaperones and program leadership and uphold high standards in conduct, appearance, language, and actions at all times. Behavior and/or use of language, gestures, inflammatory statements, and derogatory comments are not permitted.
7. Behave in accordance with applicable federal, state and municipal laws.
8. Be respectful of public property and the facilities used during National 4-H Conference and assume financial responsibility for any damages, theft, or misuse. Be responsible for your own property.
9. Dress appropriately in accordance with any established dress code. Use good judgment in selecting clothing appropriate for weather and occasion. Clothing that is revealing or with obscene language/pictures or with drug, tobacco or alcohol advertising is never allowed. Wear program name-tag to all conference activities unless removal is specified.
10. Abide by the lodging assignments for the entirety of National 4-H Conference for easy location in case of an emergency. No room switching allowed.
11. Abide by established written curfew listed in the schedule and quiet times or by adult chaperone's spoken word. (Curfew means all delegates must be in their assigned room with lights out.) Quiet is to be observed in sleeping room areas from 11:30 pm to 6:30 am. Delegates are to be especially quiet and either in their sleeping room or in the lounge area near their sleeping room in the dorm. Noise in the halls and rooms must be kept at a minimum. Limit talking to quiet conversational levels and remain considerate of others when they wish to sleep. Running in the hallways is prohibited.
12. Youth are encouraged to interact with other delegates in group settings and not pair up with another delegate. Visiting the sleeping room of the opposite sex is not permitted. All visiting must be done in lobbies or other common gathering areas. Kissing, intimate hugging and other displays of personal affection are in poor taste and will not be tolerated.
13. Possession and/or use of alcohol, tobacco, fireworks, weapons, illicit drugs or medication(s) unapproved by parent/guardian and/or chaperone are strictly prohibited. Chaperones must be informed of all prescription medications present during the program.



# Code of Conduct Acceptance Form

As a youth delegate, I understand my behavior affects the entire National 4-H Conference community and that I represent myself, my local and state 4-H program and the 4-H Youth Development program. Therefore, I have read and understand the Code of Conduct and agree to abide by it.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Youth Delegate's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**Parent/Guardian** *(must be signed, if the delegate is under 18 years old.)*

The parent/guardian, by signing this form, understands and agrees to the following as stated.

1. The Conference Coordinator and Adult Advisors to the program committee serve as advisers to the youth members.
2. The Conference Coordinator and Adult Advisors will make appropriate decisions in emergency situations to enhance the safety, health and well-being of youth program committee members.
3. The Conference Coordinator and Adult Advisors will handle occurrences of inappropriate behavior and take appropriate actions. Such actions may include counsel with involved delegates, putting an end to inappropriate behavior, restriction of participation in activities, apology to the group, notification of parents and local/state 4-H program personnel of misbehavior if severity of situation warrants, or consultation with other adults to decide if inappropriate behavior calls for youth member to be sent home immediately.
4. Youth members removed from the conference will wait for next steps by their families in the National 4-H Conference Office or other area designated by conference leadership.
5. Parent/Guardian's of youth members sent home early due to misconduct will be responsible for the youth's transportation, including bus/train/plane fare and all other fares and expenses associated with the youth's return home. Further, youth committee members may be required to return all funds donated to help supplement his/her costs to participate in the conference. Registration, lodging and other fees will not be reimbursed.
6. If damage/destruction of property occurs, participants will be assessed for the cost of damages and repairs.
7. Behaviors resulting in the breaking of public laws may be subject to legal action by law enforcement authorities.
8. Disciplinary action may result in additional consequences from the local and/or state 4-H program, including but not limited to restricted participation in future 4-H related activities.

**I have read and understand the expectations and penalties related to the Code of Conduct and agree to be bound by them.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

### Media Release

4-H National Headquarters/USDA, and its designated representatives and/or partnering agencies/organizations, capture photographs, video, and/or tape recordings of conference programs/activities. During such programs/activities, a photograph or video/audio recording may be taken of delegates. Unless otherwise requested, your signature will be considered permission for 4-H National Headquarters/USDA, its partners, agents and representatives to use, publish, and republish for purposes of advertising, public relations, trade, or any other lawful use – public information and photograph, film, audio/video tape, record and/or televise delegate's image and/or voice for use in publications or promotional materials without any restrictions. I hereby waive any right that I (and parent/guardian) may have to inspect or approve the copy and/or finished product(s) that may be used in connection therewith or the use to which it may be applied without any expectation of compensation.

If you do **not** consent to media release, please initial this line. \_\_\_\_\_

