



The opportunity to participate in or attend 4-H experiences is a privilege. 4-H experiences include engagement and/or participation in clubs, groups, educational activities, social activities, projects, field trips, camps, etc. All 4-H participants – youth, families, volunteers, and Extension staff – who participate in 4-H experiences or events sponsored by the Michigan State University Extension 4-H Youth Development Program are expected to uphold the values of the Michigan 4-H program.

**All 4-H youth participants must conduct themselves according to the following standards that apply to all Michigan 4-H programs, including virtual programs and interactions such as social media and internet engagement:**

- 1. Create a Welcoming Environment for All.** Encourage everyone to fully participate in 4-H. Recognize that all people have skills and talents that can help others and improve the community. Though we will not always agree, we must disagree respectfully. When we disagree, try to understand why. Our first priority is to create a safe, inclusive space for learning, sharing and collaboration that is welcoming to people from diverse backgrounds, cultures, and perspectives. Diversity includes, but is not limited to race, color, national origin, gender, gender identity, religion, age, height, weight, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital status, family status or veteran status.
- 2. Bring Your Best Self.** Conduct yourself in a manner that reflects honesty, integrity, self-control, and self-direction. Accept the results and outcomes of 4-H activities and programs with grace and empathy for other participants. Accept the final opinions of judges and evaluators. Be open to new ideas, suggestions, and opinions of others.
- 3. Obey the Law.** Obey the laws of the locality, state and nation and Michigan State University and Extension policies and guidelines. Commit no illegal acts. Do not possess, offer to others, or use alcohol, illegal drugs, marijuana, or tobacco products, which include e-pens, e-pipes, e-hookah, e-cigars, JUULs, vapes, vape pens or other electronic nicotine delivery systems. Do not attend 4-H activities under the influence of alcohol or illegal substances. Do not possess or use weapons or firearms except as expressly permitted as part of supervised 4-H shooting sports programming. This includes dangerous or unauthorized materials such as explosives or similar items.
- 4. Honor Diversity – Yours and Others'.** Respect and uphold the rights and dignity of all persons with whom you interact as part of Michigan 4-H.
- 5. Create a Safe Environment.** Be kind and compassionate toward others. Be considerate and courteous of all persons and their property. Do not carelessly or intentionally harm or intimidate anyone in any way (verbally, mentally, physically, or emotionally). Do not insult, harass, or bully others or engage in other hostile behaviors, including sexual harassment, sexual assault or sexual abuse. Abstain from sexual behavior and intimate physical/sexual contact in either public or private situations.
- 6. Be a Team Player.** Work cooperatively with all individuals involved in 4-H programs and activities. Be responsive to the reasonable requests of the person in charge such as volunteers and staff. Respect the integrity of the group and the group's decisions.
- 7. Humane Treatment of Animals.** Treat animals humanely and provide appropriate animal care.
- 8. Participate Fully.** Participate in and contribute to planned programs, be on time and follow through on assigned tasks/responsibilities in a manner that fosters the safety, well-being, and quality of the educational experience for self and others. Have fun!
- 9. Watch What You Wear.** Use good judgment. Wear clothing suited for the activity in which you will participate. Dress in a manner that is respectful to yourself and others. Clothing that displays or promotes violence, obscenity, illegal activities, discrimination, or intimidation is prohibited. Do not wear clothing that excessively exposes the body or shows undergarments.
- 10. Be a Positive Role Model.** Act in a mature, responsible manner, recognizing you are a role model for others and that you are representing both yourself and the Michigan State University Extension 4-H Youth Development Program. Be responsible for your behavior, use positive language, and uphold the highest standards of conduct at all 4-H activities. Having a discussion with 4-H adults such as staff and volunteers regarding my behavior and deciding what I can do to make up for any harm done

**CONSEQUENCES If I do not follow the Michigan 4-H Code of Conduct, I know that consequences may include any or all of the following:**

- Having a discussion with 4-H adults such as staff and volunteers regarding my behavior and deciding what I can do to make up for any harm done
- Notification to my parents/guardians and appropriate staff members
- Dismissal from the 4-H event at my own expense and without any refund
- Not being allowed to participate in future 4-H events
- Paying for the financial cost of damages and repairs for damage or destruction of property
- Suspension or termination of my participation in the Michigan 4-H Youth Development Program
- Being released to the nearest law enforcement agency and/or proper authorities