



## **4-H Parent, Legal Guardian or Adult Participant Code of Conduct**

(PAGE RETAINED BY THE 4-H PARENT/LEGAL GUARDIAN AND SHARED WITH ADULT PARTICIPANTS)

**We appreciate the contributions that parents, legal guardians and other adult participants offer to the University of California 4-H Youth Development Program (California 4-H) and the valuable link you provide to the successes of your child(ren) in California 4-H. Regarding your participation and engagement with California 4-H activities, you have the following rights and responsibilities.**

### **Your Responsibilities:**

1. Recognize, honor and uphold the responsibility and authority of the statewide and local program staff in setting program priorities, standards and direction to meet the ever-evolving needs of today's youth and program.
2. Recognize, support, honor and uphold the responsibility and authority of 4-H adult volunteers in their work with youth to guide program planning, achievement of learning objectives, program implementation and evaluation.
3. Follow all health and safety requirements and guidelines related to statewide program activities, gatherings, projects, etc.
4. Be committed to the UC and 4-H [missions](#), program trajectory, core values, educational goals, UC Agriculture and Natural Resources (ANR) [Principles of Community](#) and quality standards of the statewide program.
5. Respect people (including oneself, other adults, volunteers, program personnel, youth and community members) and property of program participants and community members understanding that 4-H is a youth-serving program and as such, all endeavors are opportunities to learn. Do not spread rumors, speak negatively or tear others down, and instead, build others up.
6. Take personal responsibility for the resolution of any interpersonal conflict that may arise, whether with other adults, 4-H adult volunteers, program staff and/or other UC personnel; thereby demonstrating positive conflict resolution skills to all involved. Conflicts with and between youth members will be referred to the 4-H adult volunteer or staff member in charge.
7. Prohibit discrimination against or harassment of any person in any 4-H program, event, activity or when you are affiliated with 4-H at a program, event or activity. Report instances of harassment, discrimination, or racism on based on a protected class, such as age, ancestry, color, gender, gender expression, gender identity, genetic information, family/parental status, medical condition, mental disability, national origin, physical disability, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, and veteran or military status to UC personnel.
8. Understand that parents, legal guardians and adult participants are not provided UC liability coverage when transporting their own children to and from 4-H events or activities. Understand that only appointed 4-H Adult Volunteers, meeting all license and insurance requirements, may transport youth on California 4-H business.
9. Understand and agree that 4-H members and their families may be held liable for property damage or personal injuries that are caused by their property and should carry insurance. This may include incidents involving tools, equipment, vehicles, animals, etc. Some fairs require insurance. UC does not own or insure 4-H members' or volunteers' animals or personal property.
10. Adhere to and help enforce program policies and procedures referred to in the Policy Handbook (see [4-H Policy Handbook](#)).
11. Follow the [California 4-H Dress Guidelines](#) for yourself and 4-H member(s) for whom you are responsible when attending 4-H activities.

### **Your Rights:**

1. To be respected by 4-H personnel, adult volunteers, youth, other UC personnel and program partners.
2. To be informed of any infraction of the Parent, Legal Guardian, or Adult Participant Code of Conduct or 4-H Policy that may or does result in corrective action. Parents/Legal Guardians also have a right to be informed of any infraction of their child's 4-H Member Code of Conduct.
3. To be in an environment free from harassment, discrimination, and racism based on a protected class, such as age, ancestry, color, gender, gender expression, gender identity, genetic information, family/parental status, medical condition, mental disability, national origin, physical disability, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, and veteran or military status.

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4. To make written complaints concerning statewide programs, policies or personnel, you may send an email to the State 4-H Office, [ca4h@ucanr.edu](mailto:ca4h@ucanr.edu), or as described in the Policy Handbook, (see [4-H Policy Handbook](#), Chapter 6).

**The following are prohibited when engaged in any California 4-H activity:**

1. Failure to act in a supportive and cooperative manner with program stakeholders, failure to adhere to the programmatic goals established by the program staff and/or failure to support [UC ANR's Principles of Community](#).
2. Violation of the California 4-H Parent, Legal Guardian or Adult Participant Code of Conduct.
3. Possession or use of alcohol, tobacco/tobacco products, e-cigarettes, marijuana/marijuana products, illegal drugs and/or other inappropriate materials (or to be under the influence thereof) when involved in 4-H program activities.
4. Use of abusive, obscene, discriminatory or racist language at any program activity, including intentionally or unintentionally derogatory comments, slights, questions, jokes, memes, and shame that target individuals or groups based on a protected class, such as age, ancestry, color, gender, gender expression, gender identity, genetic information, family/parental status, medical condition, mental disability, national origin, physical disability, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, and veteran or military status.
5. Acting in any manner that impedes, disrupts or prevents the regular course of 4-H program activities or impedes the constructive contribution of others to the 4-H program.
6. Attack or harassment of another person; whether visual, verbal, physical and/or by the use of social media or any internet-based platform or service.
7. Be the subject of a criminal investigation, prosecution or conviction of a misdemeanor or felony [UC Agriculture and Natural Resources Barrier Offense](#).
8. Private, one-on-one interactions with youth members at *any time*, both during program activities and personal activities (other than as approved by the youth member's parent/legal guardian). Exceptions: an emergency situation.
9. A romantic relationship with a youth member at any time.
10. Behavior that is illegal, unsafe, or contrary to the UC commitment to the highest standards of ethics (see [Regents Policy 1111](#)).
11. Except for 4-H Shooting Sports activities, firearms are prohibited at all 4-H activities and events.

**Consequences:**

All California 4-H parents, legal guardians, and other adult participants shall act in ways that promote and support program goals and do not conflict with UC or statewide program policies and procedures. Infractions of this Parent, Legal Guardian or Adult Participant Code of Conduct should be reported promptly by anyone observing them to program staff. The \*4-H Community Education Specialist (CES), 4-H CES Supervisor and Statewide Program Manager (SPM) with guidance from the State 4-H Academic Coordinator for Volunteer Engagement, may immediately bar, limit, suspend, or censor the participation of any parent, legal guardian or adult participant at California 4-H activities.

Further, the \*4-H CES Supervisor and SPM with guidance from the State 4-H Academic Coordinator for Volunteer Engagement, may, if necessary in their sole judgment, waive any formal review process and immediately bar, limit, suspend, or censor a parent, legal guardian or adult participant if it is in the best interest of the program (e.g., a potential threat to public safety, receipt of notice that the parent/legal guardian is the subject of a criminal investigation, and/or other conditions that cannot be remedied solely with corrective action). In such instances, the decision of the \*4-H CES Supervisor and SPM with guidance from the State 4-H Academic Coordinator for Volunteer Engagement, is final.

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By receiving this document, I understand that I am expected to abide by the 4-H Parent, Legal Guardian, or Adult Participant Code of Conduct. I understand that my involvement is contingent upon my compliance and that failure to comply may result in being barred, suspended, or censored from California 4-H activities.

\*When referring to state level infractions, this authority extends to the Statewide 4-H Director or their designee.

*Parent/Legal Guardian/Adult Participant Full Name (Print)	
*Signature of Parent/Legal Guardian/Adult Participant	*Date