



Maryland 4-H

MARYLAND 4-H BEHAVIORAL EXPECTATIONS

A goal of the Maryland 4-H program is to provide opportunities for children and youth to build character. Maryland 4-H supports the **CHARACTER COUNTS! Six pillars of character: TRUSTWORTHINESS, RESPECT, RESPONSIBILITY, FAIRNESS, CARING, and CITIZENSHIP.** In order to assure that Maryland 4-H programs provide positive environments for all individuals to learn and grow, 4-H participants agree to abide by these expectations of behavior: (CHARACTER COUNTS! is a service mark of the CHARACTER COUNTS! Coalition, a project of the Josephson Institute of Ethics.)

I will be trustworthy. I will be worthy of trust, honor and confidence. I will be a model of integrity by doing the right thing even when the cost is high. I will be honest in all my activities. I will keep my commitments by attending all sessions of the planned event. If I am not feeling well or have a schedule conflict, I will inform my chaperone or a person in charge. I will be in the assigned area (e.g., club meeting room, building, dorm) at all times. Maryland 4-H does not permit dishonesty by lying, cheating, deception, or omission.

I will be respectful. I will show respect, courtesy, and consideration to everyone, including myself, other program participants, and those in authority. I will act and speak respectfully. I will treat program areas, lodging areas, and transportation vehicles with respect. I will not use vulgar or abusive language or cause physical harm. I will appreciate diversity in skill, gender, ethnicity, and ability. Maryland 4-H does not tolerate statements or acts of discrimination or prejudice.

I will be responsible. I will be responsible, accountable, and self-disciplined in the pursuit of excellence. I will live up to high expectations so I can be proud of my work and conduct. I will be on time to all program events. I will be accountable by accepting responsibility for my choices and actions. I will abide by the established program curfew. I will be responsible for any damage, theft, or misconduct in which I participate.

I will be fair. I will be just, fair, and open. I will participate in events fairly by following the rules, not taking advantage of others and not asking for special exceptions.

I will be caring. I will be caring in my relationships with others. I will be kind and show compassion for others. I will treat others the way I want to be treated. I will show appreciation for the efforts of others. I will help members in my group to have a good experience by striving to include all participants.

I will be a good citizen. I will be a contributing and law-abiding citizen. I will be respectful to the environment and contribute to the greater good. I will not use any illegal substances such as tobacco, alcohol, and drugs.

MARYLAND 4-H DISCIPLINARY POLICY AND PROCEDURES

Maryland 4-H expects youth participating in programs to behave in an acceptable manner in accordance with Maryland 4-H Behavioral Expectations.

Participants who engage in conduct, including the following behaviors, which may jeopardize the health or safety of participants or the integrity of 4-H will be dismissed immediately from the meeting, activity, event or other program (for example: remainder of the fair, camp, judging trip.) Parent or guardian will be responsible for picking up a child if dismissed.

- Possession, use, or distribution of alcohol and/or illegal drugs.
- Possession or use of weapons or dangerous materials.
- Possession or use of tobacco products.
- Misuse of prescription or nonprescription drugs.
- Sexual activity.
- Cheating or misrepresenting project work.
- Unauthorized absence from program site.
- Physical, verbal, emotional, or mental abuse of another person.
- Theft, destruction, or abuse of property.

Following the program, the Extension educator in charge may take additional disciplinary action for unacceptable conduct. In such cases:

The 4-H participant and his/her parent or guardian will be notified in writing of the deviation from the Maryland 4-H Behavioral Expectations.

The 4-H youth participant will have an opportunity to be heard prior to the imposition of sanctions. A parent or guardian will be permitted to be present at such time.

The Extension educator in charge may convene a review board to investigate the charges and to hear the 4-H member. Sanctions, up to and including suspension from one or more 4-H meetings, activities, events, and other programs for a period of up to 12 months, will be imposed based on the nature of misconduct.

The 4-H youth participant and his/her parent or guardian will be notified of the sanction in writing. Sanctions may be appealed in writing to the State 4-H Leader within seven (7) days after receiving notice of the sanction. The decision of the State 4-H Leader will be final.

"I HAVE READ THE MARYLAND 4-H BEHAVIORAL EXPECTATIONS AND THE MARYLAND DISCIPLINARY POLICY & PROCEDURES. I AM AWARE THAT MY ACTIONS AND DECISIONS AFFECT ME AND OTHERS AND MAY RESULT IN LOSS OF PRIVILEGES DURING 4-H EVENTS, AND FOR FUTURE EVENTS. I WILL ACCEPT THE APPROPRIATE AND LOGICAL CONSEQUENCES OF MY ACTIONS, AS DETERMINED BY MARYLAND 4-H."

Member Signature _____ Date _____

"AS THE PARENT/GUARDIAN OF _____, I HAVE READ THE MARYLAND 4-H BEHAVIORAL EXPECTATIONS AND THE MARYLAND 4-H DISCIPLINARY POLICY & PROCEDURES AND WILL SUPPORT THE INDIVIDUAL IN CHARGE IN MAINTAINING APPROPRIATE BEHAVIOR. I AGREE TO ACCEPT THE APPROPRIATE AND LOGICAL CONSEQUENCES OF MY CHILD'S ACTIONS, AS DETERMINED BY MARYLAND 4-H."

Parent Signature _____ Date _____

Educating People To Help Themselves

Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, University of Maryland at College Park, and local governments. Thomas A. Fretz, Director of Cooperative Extension Service, University of Maryland at College Park.

The University of Maryland is equal opportunity. The University's policies, programs, and activities are in conformance with pertinent Federal and State laws and regulations on nondiscrimination regarding race, color, religion, age, national origin, sex and disability. Inquiries regarding compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Title IX of the Educational Amendments; Section 504 or the Rehabilitation Act of 1973; and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990; or related legal requirements should be directed to the director of Personnel/Human Relations, Office of the Dean, College of Agriculture, Symons Hall, College Park, MD 20742.