



# Code of Conduct for 4-H in Canada

As a positive youth development organization, we are committed to providing 4-H members with meaningful experiential learning opportunities within an environment that is safe, inclusive and fun for all involved. This is the responsibility of everyone involved in any 4-H activity.

## **This Code of Conduct applies to:**

- 4-H youth members and their families
- 4-H trained leaders and screened volunteers;
- camp counselors and youth leaders;
- non-screened guests;
- 4-H staff and governing leadership;
- 4-H program partners;
- other participants or observers of 4-H events.

## **I will:**

### **Represent 4-H and myself in a positive way**

- Use words, actions, and behaviours that are respectful, non-judgemental, and kind, towards all youth, leaders, volunteers, staff, families, and participants.
- Honour the 4-H Pledge and participate in the spirit of good sportsmanship, respecting rules and guidelines.
- Ensure all actions, including social media activity, is positive and reflects the integrity of 4-H.
- Act with honesty and integrity when dealing with property, monies, and other assets being used for 4-H purposes.
- Respect other youth, leader, volunteer and staff's, rights to privacy and the confidentiality of personal information.
- Provide appropriate animal care according to industry codes of practice ([nfacc.ca](http://nfacc.ca)).
- Abide by all federal and provincial laws.

### **Promote a safe, inclusive, and fun environment**

- Be vigilant in ensuring an environment that is safe and protects youth, leaders, volunteers and staff from emotional, physical, verbal and sexual abuse.
- Refrain from using drugs or alcohol during any 4-H youth events.
- Make all reasonable efforts to ensure equal opportunity and access to participation for all 4-H youth members and abide by the 4-H Canada's Inclusion Statement.
- Uphold the 4-H motto "Learn To Do By Doing" in an environment that is friendly and fun.

### **Lead by example**

- Adhere to the policies and procedures of 4-H Canada and provincial organizations.
- Act as a positive role model.
- Work collaboratively with all, including 4-H members, families, fellow leaders and volunteers, staff, and guests.



In addition, trained leaders, screened volunteers, and staff will:

- Fulfill their responsibilities as outlined in the position description, and act within the limitations
- Maintain the confidentiality of any information regarding 4-H that was obtained as part of the position.

## Acknowledgement

Provincial councils, regions, districts, areas, associations and/or clubs may have additional guidelines or policies. It is the responsibility of each 4-H participant to familiarize themselves with the rules that pertain to their individual participation in 4-H events and activities.

I, acknowledge that there are consequences to non-compliance with this Code of Conduct on the part of me or anyone accompanying me, at a 4-H activity or event. After an investigation, consequences may be applied as deemed appropriate and necessary, and may affect my ability to participate in 4-H.

I understand that if I observe behaviour that violates this Code of Conduct, I have a duty to report it to the authorities and/or 4-H where appropriate. Please reach out to your provincial 4-H organization for incident reporting forms and the filing process.

***This document is valid for the current 4-H year only and must be read, signed annually, and kept on file with your provincial organization.***