Cornell Cooperative Extension of Essex County 4-H Program

4-H Member Code of Conduct

Standards of conduct are established by the 4-H Program Committee and will be shared by Cornell Cooperative Extension staff, volunteers, or chaperones with all youth participating in 4-H events. Standards of expected behavior for 4-H events are established by the 4-H Program Committee. These behaviors are shared with all youth participating in the events by CCE Educator or the adult in charge prior to the event. This will establish a clear understanding of expectations among the individuals involved. Procedures for establishing understanding of expectation, managing discipline and consequences of inappropriate behavior are also outlined in this code of conduct. Chaperones on any 4-H trip/event will be enforcing the code.

Expected Behavior:

1. All participants are expected to be responsive to the reasonable requests of the adult in charge. Such instructions are expected to be followed the first time given.

2. All participants are expected to participate in all of the planned programs, to be on time and follow through on assigned tasks/responsibilities in a manner that ensures the safety, well-being, and quality of the educational experience for self and others.

3. All participants will act in a mature, responsible manner, recognizing they are role models for others and are representing the Essex County 4-H Program.

4. All participants will be dressed appropriately for the event. Dress will depend on the event. Information given prior to the event will state the type of clothing that is appropriate.

5. All participants will be considerate and courteous of all youth and adults and their property during travel, at group gatherings, and during free time.

6. All participants will respect the rights and opinions of others, realizing that their customs may be different.

7. all participants are prohibited from the possession and/or use of illegal drugs, tobacco products, alcoholic beverages, firearms and/or weapons at all times.

8. All participants are to refrain from romantic displays, sexual activities, and sexual harassment either in public or private situations. These actions will not be tolerated.

Procedures for Sharing and Managing Expected Behavior:

1. Prior to all overnight programs, an orientation will be conducted by the CCE Educator or adult in charge. All adults involved (leaders/chaperones) and youth participants plus a parent/guardian of each youth must be in attendance. Expected behavior and resulting consequences of misbehavior will be shared verbally and/or in writing.

2. Trained adult chaperones will be assigned for all 4-H events. If the chaperone is not a CCE staff member, training for chaperones will be required and include authority, responsibility, due process, guidelines and emergency procedures.

3. A 4-H member Code of Conduct including agreed upon behavior expectations, consequences, and financial commitment will be signed by youth participants and their parent/guardian and presented at the event.

Consequences:

Any of the following may be used, depending on severity of the situation. Each severe case will be reviewed by the 4-H Program Committee.

1. In mild cases the participant will receive a warning.

2. The participant may be able to remain at the event, but possibly barred from a future event.

3. If a violation occurs at State Fair the participant may suffer a loss of State Fair premiums.

4. The participant may be sent home at his/her family's expense, followed by a review board consisting of the individual, the 4-H Program Committee, and the individual's parent or guardian.

Financial Commitment:

1. An initial payment toward the cost of the trip will be the responsibility of each participant. The amount specified for each event is payable to the 4-H Leaders' Association.

2. The participant or his/her family will assume the full cost of the event if the participant cancels after the designated deadline date.

We have read and will abide by the 4-H Code of Conduct.

_____ _____

4-H Member - print name *Signature*

_____ _____

Parent or Guardian – print name *Signature*

_____

Date