

## A Valuable Partnership

### Volunteers and the Washington State University Extension 4-H Youth Development Program

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Position \_\_\_\_\_ County \_\_\_\_\_

WSU Extension appreciates your commitment to share your knowledge and talents with 4-H youth and hope this experience will be fulfilling during the time you serve as a 4-H volunteer. Your satisfaction and progress in this position are important and therefore subject to periodic reviews. Thank you for teaming with WSU Extension to expand educational opportunities for all youth and adults. Please read the following expectations of participation and behavior and indicate your willingness to cooperate by signing at the end of this form.

#### The Washington State University Extension 4-H Youth Development Program agrees to:

- Provide a volunteer position description that lists specific duties.
- Respect volunteers as trusted partners in youth development.
- Share philosophy, mission, and goals of the 4-H Youth Development Program.
- Utilize, promote, and provide training in experiential education.
- Provide information on county, state, and federal policies that govern the 4-H Youth Development Program.
- Provide training and materials to facilitate the inclusion and participation of volunteers and youth from all backgrounds.
- Provide assistance, support, encouragement, supervision, and periodic evaluation.
- Identify approved curriculum and materials for projects and group organization.
- Provide ongoing training at the county level and information about volunteer opportunities beyond the county.
- Keep volunteers informed of events, programs, and opportunities for youth at the county, state, and national levels.
- Recognize volunteers for their contributions to the 4-H Youth Development Program.
- Resolve 4-H volunteer personnel issues.

#### As a 4-H Volunteer, I agree to:

- Perform the duties in my position description in a responsible and timely manner.
- Conduct myself in a courteous and respectful manner, exhibit good sportsmanship, and be a positive role model for all youth.
- Work cooperatively with WSU Extension staff, volunteers, parents, and members.
- Respect, adhere to, and enforce the rules, policies, and guidelines established for the 4-H Youth Development Program.
- Participate in and support 4-H Leaders' Councils and other advisory groups.
- Support and promote the 4-H Youth Development Program through 4-H clubs, schools, after-school programs, and other appropriate settings.
- Support and promote 4-H Youth Development opportunities and inform youth of county, state, and national programs.
- Promote the spirit of inclusion and welcome participation of volunteers and youth from all backgrounds.
- Follow the volunteer "Expectations of Behavior" that I have read and understand.

# Washington State University Extension 4-H Youth Development Volunteer Expectations of Behavior

The primary purpose of these Expectations of Behavior is to insure the safety and well-being of all 4-H participants (i.e., members, their parents and families, staff and volunteers).

These expectations will guide volunteer behavior during involvement in the Washington State University Extension 4-H Youth Development Program. Just as it is a privilege for Washington State University to work with individuals who volunteer their time and energies to 4-H, a volunteer's involvement in 4-H is a privilege and a responsibility, not a right.

### 4-H Volunteers will:

- Treat others in a courteous, respectful manner and serve as a positive role model for youth.
- Accept supervision and work collaboratively with county 4-H staff while involved in the program.
- Abide by policies and guidelines of WSU Extension state and county 4-H programs.
- Make all reasonable effort to assure that 4-H youth programs are accessible to youth without regard to race, color, gender, national origin, religion, disability, or sexual orientation.
- Uphold an individual's right to dignity, self-development, and self-direction, will not abuse any 4-H participant by physical or verbal means, and will report such abuse, if observed.
- Refer to C1001, *Child Abuse: Information for WSU Faculty, Staff & Volunteers*, for child abuse information and reporting procedures.
- Keep county 4-H staff informed of any incidents that may violate 4-H policies or personal rights.
- Treat animals humanely and teach youth to properly care for animals.
- Operate machinery, vehicles, and other equipment in a safe and responsible manner.
- Handle fundraising and finances in an ethical manner according to C1059E, *Leader's Guide to the Treasurer's Book*.
- NOT consume alcohol or illegal substances while responsible for youth in 4-H activities nor consume anything that will in any way impact your ability to work safely with youth.
- NOT require 4-H participants to purchase materials, equipment, animals, or services from any specific places of business.

I have read, understand, and agree to the expectations of participation and behavior as outlined in this agreement. I understand that I may terminate this appointment without prior notice. I understand and agree that any action on my part that contradicts any portion of this agreement is grounds for the immediate suspension and/or termination of my volunteer status with the Washington State University Extension 4-H Youth Development Program.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of 4-H Volunteer

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Welcome to 4-H leadership, a wonderful opportunity for personal growth, satisfaction, and achievement.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Extension Educator/4-H Program Assistant

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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