



4-H VOLUNTEER INFORMATION SERIES

N e b r a s k a 4 - H Y o u t h D e v e l o p m e n t

Nebraska 4-H Volunteer Code of Ethics

The primary goals of a youth volunteer are to help youth develop competency in their projects, confidence in themselves and others, connections in their community and sound character. Adults are to help youth do what they are capable of doing and promote teamwork and leadership while helping 4-H members learn and have fun. Everything a volunteer says and/or does should be consistent with the six personal character traits: trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, caring, fairness, and citizenship.

Nebraska 4-H Volunteers will:

1. Act to encourage and justify trust. Teach 4-Hers the meaning and importance of trustworthiness
2. Treat members, parents, Extension staff, judges and others with respect, courtesy and consideration. Avoid and prevent put-downs, insults, name-calling, yelling and other verbal or non-verbal conduct likely to offend, hurt or set a bad example.
3. Be informed about youth and their positive development. Fulfill responsibilities by striving to improve performance as a volunteer and a mentor of youth. Attend training sessions and seek out and use research-based resources and educational materials.
4. Teach and model kindness and compassion for others. Recognize that all youth have skills and talents that can be used to help others and improve the community. Teach and demand teamwork and discourage selfishness.
5. Teach and model fair-mindedness; be open to ideas, suggestions, and opinions of others.
6. Make all reasonable efforts to assure equal access to participation for all youth and adults, regardless of race, creed, color, sex, national origin or disability. Make all decisions fairly and treat all youth and adults with impartiality.
7. Teach and model the importance of obeying laws and rules as an obligation of citizenship and obey the laws of the locality, state, and nation.
8. Promote the responsible treatment of animals and stewardship of the environment.
9. Not use alcohol or any illegal substance while working with or when responsible for youth. Not be under the influence while working with or when responsible for youth. Not allow youth to do so while under your supervision.
10. Not harm youth or adults in any way, whether through sexual harassment, physical force, verbal or mental abuse, neglect or other harmful behaviors.
11. Provide a safe environment for youth to learn.