



Oklahoma 4-H Volunteer Management System  
**BEHAVIORAL GUIDELINES**  
 For Extension Educators and Volunteers  
 Working with Oklahoma 4-H Youth Development Programs

Oklahoma families and other youth service programs trust in the Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service to provide educational programs in a safe environment for participating youth. Adults who assume educator and volunteer roles within Extension have the opportunity for a rewarding experience. The opportunity to work with youth is a privileged position of trust that should be held only by those who are willing to demonstrate behaviors that fulfill this trust. The following behavioral expectations have been established for persons serving in educator and volunteer roles within Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service programs.

1. Work cooperatively with youth, families, volunteers, Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service faculty and staff, and others in a courteous, respectful manner demonstrating behaviors appropriate for a positive role model for youth.
2. Represent the Cooperative Extension Service and the 4-H program with pride and dignity, behave appropriately, exhibit good sportsmanship, and demonstrate reasonable conflict management skills.
3. Respect, adhere to, and enforce the rules, policies, and guidelines established by the Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service and any other established rules or guidelines for sanctioned 4-H activities, this includes all state laws related to child abuse and substance abuse.
4. Recognize that verbal, mental or physical abuse, hazing or committing criminal acts or being aware of the same are grounds for termination as a volunteer or 4-H educator.
5. Comply with equal opportunity and anti-discrimination laws. Make all reasonable efforts to assure that 4-H youth programs are accessible to youth without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, or disability.
6. Treat animals humanely and encourage 4-H youth and adults to provide appropriate and ethical animal care.
7. Under no circumstances, allow or consume alcohol or illegal drugs at 4-H events or activities. Understand that the use of or being under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs while in the presence of 4-H members and/or at 4-H programs or activities are grounds for termination as a volunteer or 4-H educator.
8. The use of tobacco products in the presence of 4-H members and/or during 4-H events and activities is strongly discouraged, as the use of these products by minors is illegal.
9. Operate machinery, vehicles, and other equipment in a safe and responsible manner when working with youth and adults participating in 4-H programs.
10. Accept responsibility to promote, conduct, and support 4-H programs in order to develop an effective county, district, state, and national 4-H program.

I understand that breaching the behavioral guidelines can be grounds for severing my relationship as a volunteer with the Oklahoma 4-H Youth Development Program.

Print Name	Print Name
Volunteer's Signature	Extension Educator's Signature
Date	Date