



# 4-H in Canada Code of Conduct

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

4-H in Canada has outlined the following standards as expectations and guidelines for all involved in 4-H activities. This Code of Conduct applies to:

- 4-H members (registered 4-H Youth), aged 6 to 25 years
- Parents/guardians of 4-H members and their families
- 4-H leaders and 4-H volunteers, fully screened
- 4-H staff and professionals, including Board and Foundation members at all levels
- Partners and/or sponsors of 4-H programs across Canada
- 4-H activity or event participants/observers – adult or youth

Misconduct by any of the above-mentioned will not be tolerated, especially as it relates to the well-being of the youth in our organization's care.

## I will:

### Lead by Example

- Act as a positive role model
- Work collaboratively with all, including 4-H members, families, fellow leaders and volunteers, 4-H staff, and guests
- Use language that is respectful, polite, non-judgemental and kind
- Compete with honesty, play fairly and uphold the spirit of good sportsmanship
- Honour my commitments and accept responsibility for my choices, decisions, behaviour and actions
- Participate fully in activities and respect the rules and guidelines

### Protect the physical and emotional safety of youth at all times

- Follow policies and procedures as laid out at 4-H provincial and 4-H national levels. This includes, but is not limited to, this Code of Conduct, the 4-H Canada Inclusion Statement, the Duty to Report Policy and the Two Leader Rule.
- Abide by all federal and provincial laws

### Promote an inclusive, fun environment

- Always put the health, safety and best interests of youth first
- Make all reasonable efforts to ensure equal opportunity and access to participation for all 4-H youth members
- Uphold the 4-H motto "Learn To Do By Doing" in an environment that is friendly and fun
- Abide by all 4-H policies and procedures
- Abide by all terms of 4-H Canada's Inclusion Statement



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

- Dress appropriately for the activity I am participating in
- Respect property used for 4-H purposes
- Be mindful of other people's privacy, belongings, personal space and boundaries
- Refrain from using drugs and or/alcohol during any 4-H event where 4-H youth are in attendance
- Refrain from bullying behaviour, verbal or physical
- Ensure all social media activity is positive and reflects 4-H in a positive way
- Maintain confidentiality, in keeping with 4-H Canada's Privacy Policy
- Handle 4-H funds and fundraising in an ethical manner, and maintain accurate financial records
- Respect animals by treating them humanely and providing appropriate care according to the Five Freedoms for Animal Care and industry codes of practice ([www.nfacc.ca](http://www.nfacc.ca))

### Policies and practice

*I will* read and adhere to the following, as set out by 4-H Canada,

- 4-H in Canada Inclusion Statement
- 4-H in Canada Code of Conduct
- 4-H in Canada Duty to Report Policy
- 4-H in Canada Two Leader Rule

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.**



## Acknowledgement

I acknowledge that I have read the 4-H in Canada, Inclusion Statement, the 4-H in Canada Code of Conduct, the 4-H in Canada Duty to Report Policy, and the 4-H in Canada Two Leader Rule, and that I understand the content of these documents.

By signing this Code of Conduct, I acknowledge that I will comply with these standards and **all 4-H policies**.

I acknowledge that consequences of non-compliance with this Code of Conduct on the part of me **or anyone accompanying me, including family members who are in attendance**, at a 4-H activity or event will be implemented as deemed appropriate and necessary, and may affect my ability to participate in 4-H. I understand that if I observe behaviour that blatantly violates this code of conduct, I have a duty to report it to the authorities and/or 4-H where appropriate.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Member

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Leader

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

***This document is valid for the current 4-H year only and must be read and signed annually.***

*This document has been developed in consultation with the Canadian Centre for Child Protection in 2018.*