

# Florida 4-H Code of Conduct and Member Discipline Policy for ALL 4-H Activities

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In seeking uniformity in the conduct expected at all 4-H activities and events, the following guidelines have been developed.

1. All rules and regulations governing an activity or event will be discussed with agents, leaders and 4-H'ers prior to, and at the beginning of each event.
2. All 4-H'ers are under the supervision of any Extension employee or adult assigned to the event.
3. All participants are expected to understand, respect, and act in accord with these standards as they support the goal of maintaining the health, safety and well-being of all persons.

## Behavioral Standards for Out-of -County Events

- Participants are expected to participate in all components of the planned program.
- Participants are expected to be responsive to the reasonable requests of the event leader/agent.
- Participants will be respectful of their need for personal safety and the safety of others.
- The possession or use of alcoholic beverages, non-prescription drugs, narcotics, firearms and/or other weapons, tobacco and tobacco products, is strictly prohibited at all times.
- The malicious destruction or theft of personal, state, county, or 4-H property is unacceptable behavior.
- Gambling for money is not permitted.
- Participants will remain at the premises of the program/event at all times unless they have been granted permission to leave by the adults in charge.
- Visitation by non-registered persons is discouraged. The event leader/agent should be notified if guests are expected.
- Participants will leave the premises in as good or better condition than it was upon arrival.

## Consequences and Disciplinary Actions

1.) 4-H'ers accused of any of the following will be required to appear before a review board:

- Possession or use of illegal drugs or alcoholic beverages;
- Theft, misuse, or abuse of public or personal property;
- Sexual misconduct;
- Possession of weapons or fireworks;
- Unauthorized absence from the premises of the event;
- Physical assault.

If the accused 4-H'er is found in violation of the above, his/her parents will be notified; and the 4-H'er will be sent home immediately at the parent's expense and be suspended from participation in district, state, national and international 4-H activities for a period of up to 12 months.

2.) 4-H'ers accused of any of the following may be required to appear before the review board:

- Breaking curfew or disturbing the peace.
- Unexcused absence from the activities of the event.
- Unauthorized use of vehicles during the event.
- Use of abusive language.

If the accused 4-H'er is found in violation of these offenses listed above and receives discipline issued by the review board, his/her parents will be notified, and the 4-H'er may be sent home immediately at the parent's expense and may be suspended from participating in district, state, national, and international 4-H activities for up to six (6) months.

3.) Realizing these guidelines are not "all inclusive" the Extension Service reserves the right to make adjustments to these policies.

A policy for dealing with disciplinary violations should provide a clear opportunity for accused individuals to exercise rights of due process. The procedure shown here was developed by Len Davis, a university attorney for the University of Georgia, for use in that state and has been adapted only slightly for use in Florida.

## Notification Procedures

If a 4-H'er is found in violation of the Code and is to be sent home, the person in charge of the event will notify the appropriate County Extension Director/agent responsible.

## Review Board

The person in charge of the event will appoint a review board at the beginning of the event. The review board shall consist of the following: at least one Extension worker, up to two volunteer leaders, and three 4-H members (when appropriate). The person in charge of the event, or designee, shall serve as chairperson. The review board may be convened by the person in charge of the event.

## Appeal Procedures

If a 4-H'er wishes to appeal the decision of the review board, he/she must appeal in writing through his/her County Extension Office. Appeals must be filed within 30 days following notification of punishment.

As necessary, the Assistant Dean of 4-H shall appoint an appeal board to meet no sooner than 30 days following the date of the 4-H'er's request. The appeal board shall consist of:

1. A County Extension Agent
2. A Volunteer Leader
3. Three 4-H members (when appropriate)
4. Assistant Dean, 4-H (or designate) chairperson

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