



**BEHAVIORAL GUIDELINES FOR 4-H VOLUNTEERS WORKING WITH 4-H
YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS IN MISSISSIPPI**

Mississippi families and other youth service programs trust in Mississippi State University Extension Service to provide educational programs in a safe environment for participating youth. Adults who assume volunteer roles within the Extension Service 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 behavior that fulfills this trust. The following behavioral expectations have been established for persons serving in volunteer roles within Mississippi State University Extension Service programs.

1. Work cooperatively with youth, families, volunteers, Mississippi State University 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 Mississippi State University 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 Mississippi State University Extension Service including all state laws related to child abuse and substance abuse.
4. Recognize that verbal or physical abuse or committing criminal acts are grounds for termination as a 4-H volunteer.
5. Comply with equal opportunity and anti-discrimination laws. Mississippi State University Extension Service offers its programs to all eligible persons regardless of race, color, national origin, religion, gender, age, disability, marital or veteran status, or any other legally protected status, and is an Equal Opportunity Employer.
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 4-H volunteer.
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.

Accepted By:

Print Name

Print Name

Volunteer's Signature

Date

County Extension Agent's Signature

Date