

## Tennessee 4-H Youth Development Volunteer Agreement and Standards of Behavior

Applicant Name: \_\_\_\_\_

### Tennessee 4-H Youth Development Volunteer Standards of Behavior

Families and other youth-serving organizations place trust in UT Extension to provide quality leadership and care for participants in 4-H programs. The opportunity to work with youth is a privileged position of trust that should only be held by those who are willing to commit to upholding behavior that fulfills this trust. For these reasons, the following behavior guidelines are provided for volunteers working in the UT Extension 4-H Youth Development program.

1. Treat others in a courteous, respectful manner demonstrating behaviors appropriate for a positive role model for youth.
2. Obey the laws of the locality, state, and nation.
3. Make all reasonable efforts to assure that 4-H youth programs are accessible to youth without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, or disability and promote a spirit of positive participation.
4. Recognize that verbal and/or physical abuse and/or neglect of youth is unacceptable in 4-H Youth Development programs, and report suspected abuse to 4-H officials and the proper authorities.
5. Do not participate in or condone neglect or abuse that happens outside the program to 4-H youth participants, and report suspected abuse to proper authorities.
6. Operate motor vehicles (including machines or equipment) in a safe and reliable manner and only with a valid operator's license and the legally required insurance coverage.
7. Inform county 4-H staff of any arrests or charges of criminal activity against you. (Temporary suspension pending resolution of the case may be required.)
8. Notify Extension staff promptly of any incident that may violate UT Extension policies or personal rights.
9. Do not require 4-H participants to purchase materials, supplies, equipment, animals or services from any specific vendor.
10. Teach 4-H youth to provide appropriate animal care and treat animals humanely.
11. Do not consume alcohol or illegal substances while responsible for youth in 4-H activities nor allow 4-H youth participants under supervision to do so.
12. Accept supervision and support from county, region, and state 4-H staff while involved in the 4-H Youth Development program.

### Tennessee 4-H Youth Development Volunteer Agreement

Volunteers are asked to carefully consider the following expectations and confirm a willingness to observe these by signing where indicated. In addition, volunteers serving can expect the following from UT Extension.

#### UT EXTENSION AGREES TO:

- ❖ Provide orientation training for the position.
- ❖ Set educational tone and directions.
- ❖ Provide position descriptions.
- ❖ Provide assistance, support and encouragement.
- ❖ Give recognition for time and energy devoted to the position.
- ❖ Inform of coming events and activities.
- ❖ Make annual evaluations.
- ❖ Provide opportunities and materials to develop understanding and management of the volunteer assignments.
- ❖ Provide educational materials to be used for project and club organizations.
- ❖ Provide timely information on opportunities for youth at county, region, state and national levels.

#### VOLUNTEER AGREES TO:

- ❖ Complete new 4-H leader orientation and training.
- ❖ Be supportive of Extension programs and staff members.
- ❖ Participate in county leader association meetings and trainings as appropriate.
- ❖ Inform enrolled youth of Extension program opportunities.
- ❖ Supply county Extension office with application updates annually.
- ❖ Abide by the Tennessee 4-H Youth Development Volunteer Standards of Behavior.
- ❖ Participate in available training as appropriate to fulfill my duties

I have read and understand the Tennessee 4-H Youth Development Standards of Behavior and Volunteer Agreement. I agree to perform my duties as explained by Extension staff and to abide by the 4-H Code of Conduct and any other rules specific to individual events at which I may be serving as a 4-H volunteer. I understand that volunteering with UT Extension is a privilege, not a right. I further understand that I may terminate this appointment without prior notice. I understand and agree that failure to comply with this agreement is grounds for immediate suspension and/or termination of my volunteer status with the Tennessee 4-H Youth Development program.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Volunteer Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
UT Extension Representative's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date