



## Texas 4-H Youth Development Consequences of Misbehavior

### Violators May Expect:

To have the opportunity to explain actions to the professional Extension employee in charge of program.

Behavior that is disruptive of the Texas 4-H Program and/or unbecoming of a youth's role as a member and/or leader within the program will be documented and a letter describing such will be sent to the District 4-H Leadership Team (District 4-H Specialist and District Extension Administrator), County Extension Agent(s) and parents/guardians of those involved. Examples of offenses are as listed below, but not limited to:

#### **Minor Offenses**

1. *Habitually late to program activities*
2. *Not in room at designated time*
3. *Not possessing good manners or use threatening, obscene, or sexual harassing language toward others*
4. *Not respecting the rights and privacy of those rooming with or attending an activity*
5. *Lying or untruthfulness to chaperones, leaders, event organizers or others in attendance*

#### **Intermediate Offenses**

1. *Inappropriate visitation*
2. *Leaving a 4-H activity without the permission of staff member(s) in charge*
3. *Intentional damage to meeting site, sleeping quarters, person, or other person's property*
4. *Bullying*

#### **Major Offenses**

1. *Smoking or using tobacco products*
2. *The use of alcohol or drugs*
3. *Carrying an unauthorized weapon*
4. *Threatening another person with a weapon or causing bodily harm*
5. *Cheating*
6. *Sexual activities or harassment*
7. *Theft of any kind*
8. *Acting in a manner considered by 4-H leadership to be harmful or potentially harmful to the health or well-being of themselves or others, whether such act occurred within, or outside of the 4-H program.*
9. *Violation of the law*
10. *Violation of livestock ethics policy.*

### **Consequences**

- For every offense 4-H member will receive a verbal reprimand.
- For every offense, the violator shall write letters of apology to the appropriate people.

### **Major Offenses**

- Automatic removal from event/activity and/or sending a participant home at the parent's/guardian's expense.
- One major offense during any 4-H year may lead to suspension of membership in all Texas 4-H Youth Development programs for the remainder of the 4-H year, along with the possibilities of facing criminal charges, pending offense.
- 4-H member may be asked to resign from all 4-H offices and/or leadership roles held as well as be required to give up monetary awards or scholarships from the Texas 4-H program.
- May lead to termination of 4-H membership.
- May result in notification of incident to legal authorities.
- May result in disqualification of all validated projects.

### **Intermediate Offenses**

- One or two violations is grounds for removal from the event/activity and/or sending a participant home at the parent's/guardian's expense.
- Three violations during one calendar year is grounds for the 4-H member to not be allowed in any county, district or state activities for the remainder of the 4-H year.
- 4-H member may be asked to resign from all 4-H offices and/or leadership roles held as well as be required to give up monetary awards or scholarships from the Texas 4-H program.

### **Minor Offenses**

- Consistent discipline problems requiring more than two reprimands is grounds for sending a 4-H member home at the parent's/guardian's expense.
- Habitual discipline problems requiring more than four reprimands during one calendar year is grounds for the 4-H member to not be allowed in any county, district or state activities for the remainder of the 4-H year.
- 4-H member may be asked to resign from all 4-H offices and/or leadership roles held as well as be required to give up monetary awards or scholarships from the Texas 4-H program.

**Course Of Action**

Extension employees responsible for 4-H program and events/activities are encouraged to communicate to 4-H participants and adult chaperones prior to participation in a 4-H event/activity/leadership role a standard of acceptable behavior, via the Consequences of Misbehavior and Code of Conduct. Standards of behavior and consequences should be reviewed with participants as part of the initial orientation.

1. Extension employee obtains all the relevant facts.
2. Brief the on-site adult responsible for the youth delegate (Extension employee or 4-H volunteer).
3. If not on-site, but available via phone, brief the county Extension employee and District Extension Administrator responsible.
4. Review Consequences of Misbehavior. The following steps should be taken when sending a 4-H member home:
  - Extension personnel/event manager contacts parents.
  - Advise parents that child is being sent home by safest, most direct means, and that parents are responsible for associated costs.
  - Extension personnel/event manager decides if parents should be given the option of picking up the child.
  - County Extension faculty member collects money from parent to pay transportation charges.
  - Follow-up correspondence from Extension employee/event manager to appropriate county agent, District 4-H Leadership Team (District 4-H Specialist and District Extension Administrator), child and parent for documentation.
5. For all reprimands, a Summary Letter and Accident/Incident Report Form will be completed and mailed to the 4-H member, parent, County Extension Agents, District Extension Administrator, County Extension Directors (if applicable), 4-H Specialist, and Texas 4-H Youth Program Director.

I have read the Texas 4-H Consequences of Misbehavior and understand what violators may expect. I agree with the Code of Conduct and do intend to abide by it throughout my 4-H activities.

\_\_\_\_\_

4-H Member Signature                      County                      District                      Date

As the parent or guardian of \_\_\_\_\_, I have read the commitment and do support all points. I give permission to the professional Extension faculty in charge to carry out the Code of Conduct as described including inspection of rooms.

\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature                      Date