## **Texas 4-H Youth Development**

# **Consequences of Misbehavior**



Participants will have the opportunity to explain his/her 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/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 listed below but are not limited to the list. Offense categories for these examples could shift depending on the severity and/or frequency of the offense.

#### Minor Offenses

- 1. Habitually late to program activities.
- 2. Not in room at designated time.
- 3. Not respecting the rights and privacy of those rooming with or attending an activity.
- 4. Lying or untruthfulness to chaperones, leaders, event organizers or others in attendance.
- 5. Not being respectful to 4-H staff, volunteers, or not following their instructions and/or rules.
- 6. Not adhering to the dress code.
- 7. Not displaying good manners.
- 8. Using threating or obscene language toward others.

#### Intermediate Offenses

- 1. Inappropriate visitation.
- 2. Leaving a 4-H activity without the permission of staff member(s) in charge.
- 3. Misuse of or publishing misleading information on a social media account.
- 4. Intentional damage to meeting site, sleeping quarters, person, or other person's property.

## 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. Violation of the law.
- 9. Violation of livestock ethics policy.
- 10. Bullying or cyber-bullying.
- 11. 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.

## Consequences

- For most minor offenses, a 4-H member will receive a verbal reprimand unless the behavior is a chronic issue, which may require additional documentation and response.
- For every intermediate and major offense, the 4-H member will receive a verbal and written reprimand and the violator shall write letters of apology to the appropriate people.

## **Major Offenses**

- 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.
- 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 state validated animal 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 employee(s) responsible for the 4-H program and event/activity are encouraged to communicate a standard of acceptable behavior to 4-H participants and adult chaperones prior to the 4-H event/activity/leadership role. Standards of behavior and consequences should be reviewed with participants as part of the initial orientation. When an incident occurs, the following steps should be taken.

- 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, District Extension Administrator, and 4-H Specialist 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 Agent collects money from parent/guardian 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 intermediate and major offense reprimands and depending on the severity and/or frequency of minor offenses, a Summary Letter and Accident/Incident Report Form will be completed and mailed to the 4-H member, parent, County Extension Agent(s), District Extension Administrator, County Extension Director (if applicable), 4-H Specialist, and Texas 4-H Program Director.

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

4-H Member Signature	County	District	Date
As the parent/guardian of		_, I have read the above info	ormation and understand
that every offense has a consequence.	I give permission to the profes	sional Extension faculty in o	charge to carry out the
Consequences of Misbehavior as desc necessary. I understand that 4-H partic	= :	·	
Parent/Guardian Signature	Date		

The members of Texas A&M AgriLife will provide equal opportunities in programs and activities, education, and employment to all persons regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation or gender identity and will strive to achieve full and equal employment opportunity throughout Texas A&M AgriLife.