



# NYS 4-H Code of Conduct

Our first priority is to create a safe, inclusive space for learning, sharing, and collaboration welcoming to people from diverse backgrounds, cultures and perspectives. Diversity includes, but is not limited to: race, color, religion, political beliefs, national or ethnic origin, immigration status, sex, gender, gender identity and expression, transgender status, sexual orientation, age, marital or family status, educational level, learning style, physical appearance, body size, protected veterans, and individuals with disabilities. CCE actively supports equal educational and employment opportunities. No person shall be denied admission to any educational program or activity on the basis of any legally prohibited discrimination. CCE is committed to the maintenance of affirmative action programs that will assure the continuation of such equality of opportunity.

All 4-H Participants—youth, families, volunteers, and Extension staff—in or attending any activity or event sponsored by Cornell University’s Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) 4-H Youth Development Program are required to uphold the values of the NYS 4-H program and conduct themselves according to these standards. The standards also apply to online activity, including social media internet presence.

## Ground Rules

The following Ground Rules apply to all 4-H participants and volunteers. In addition to these expectations, CCE volunteers are accountable to additional expectations outlined in the CCE Volunteer Code of Conduct. Extension staff is accountable to additional standards of professionalism that are outlined by position descriptions and CCE human resource policies.

1. **Create a Welcoming Environment for All.** Encourage everyone to fully participate in CCE and 4-H. Recognize that all people have skills and talents that can help others and improve the community. Though we will not always agree, we must disagree respectfully. When we disagree, try to understand why.
2. **Bring Your Best Self.** Respect and follow Cooperative Extension rules, policies, and guidelines that relate to 4-H Youth Programs and Events. Conduct yourself in a manner that reflects honesty, integrity, self-control, and self-direction. Accept the results and outcomes of 4-H contests with grace and empathy for other participants. Accept the final opinions of judges and evaluators. Be open to new ideas, suggestions, and opinions of others
3. **Obey the Law.** Commit no illegal acts. Do not possess or use illegal drugs, tobacco products, firearms, weapons, or any harmful object with the intent to hurt others at any time. (Firearms are allowed only as part of supervised 4-H Shooting Sports programming.) Do not attend CCE or 4-H activities under the influence of alcohol or controlled substances.
4. **Honor Diversity – Yours and Others’.** Respect and uphold the rights and dignity of all staff, volunteers, families, and youth who participate in CCE and 4-H programs. Follow [Cornell Cooperative Extension Non-Discrimination Policy](#).
5. **Create a Safe Environment.** Do not carelessly or intentionally harm youth or adults in any way (verbally, mentally, physically, or emotionally). Refrain from romantic displays and sexual activities either in public or private situations. Be kind and compassionate towards others. Do not insult or put down other participants. Harassment, bullying, and other exclusionary behavior aren’t acceptable. Be considerate and courteous of all youth and adults and their property.
  - a. Youth must stay in the designated dormitory lodging areas: boys may not be in girls’ dormitory or lodging areas and girls may not be in boys’ dormitory or lodging areas.



- b. Report any and all accidents, physical or verbal abuse or unsafe conditions that threaten the emotional or physical well-being of others or yourself to the NYS 4-H, Extension staff, and Event Coordinators as soon as possible.
- 6. **Be a Team Player.** Work cooperatively with Extension staff, volunteers, 4-Hers, and all involved in 4-H programs and activities. Be responsive to the reasonable requests of the person in charge. Respect the integrity of the group and the group's decisions.
- 7. **Participate Fully.** Participate in all of the planned programs, be on time and follow through on assigned tasks/responsibilities (including the completion of required records or reports) in a manner that insures the safety, well-being, and quality of the educational experience for self and others. Have fun!
- 8. **Watch What You Wear.** Use your best judgment. Wear clothing suited for the activity you will participate in. Clothing promoting alcohol and other intoxicants, or displaying messages that are racist, sexist, homophobic, or any other degrading message that detrimentally impacts the dignity and respect of members of our community are never acceptable. Don't wear revealing clothing, such as short skirts or shorts, midriff-baring tops, and sagging pants. If you are unsure about what is appropriate, contact the local CCE 4-H Educator in charge in advance.
- 9. **Be a Positive Role Model.** Act in a mature, responsible manner, recognizing you are role models for others, and that you are representing yourself, CCE, and the 4-H Youth Development Program. Be responsible for your behavior, use positive and affirming language, and uphold exemplary standards of conduct at all 4-H activities.

## Consequences

Any of the following may be used, depending on severity of the situation:

- 1. Participant will receive a verbal warning.
- 2. Participant may remain at the event/activity, but may possibly be barred from a future event.
- 3. Participant may be asked to leave the event/activity. If a youth, the parent(s) will be called and the youth will be sent home at family's expense.

**I have read and understand the above and will abide by the NYS 4-H Youth Development Code of Conduct.**

|  |             |
|--|-------------|
| <b>Signature of 4-H Youth or Adult</b> | <b>Date</b> |
|--|-------------|

|  |             |
|--|-------------|
| <b>Signature of Parent/Guardian (if youth)</b> | <b>Date</b> |
|--|-------------|

**4-H Program Year:**

**October 1, 2019 to September 30, 2020**

**PART 3: PHOTO RELEASE**

By signing this form, I consent and give permission to allow Cornell Cooperative Extension the unlimited right to use photos, videos, direct quotes, and/or audio clips that they have of me participating in Cornell Cooperative Extension programs or events. I agree to give up my rights with regards to Cornell Cooperative Extension photos, videos, direct quotes, and/or audio clips of me. Further, by signing this consent and release form, I acknowledge that I understand and agree to the above request and conditions. I sign this form freely and without inducement.

**Please Circle:** Yes OR No Parent/Guardian: Please initial: \_\_\_\_\_

**CORNELL COOPERATIVE EXTENSION CHEMUNG COUNTY**

**4-H Program Year: October 1, 20 thru September 30, 20**

**4-H Club Activity** (please select anticipated program participation):

- All 4-H activities and events for program year
- Working with dogs
- Physical Fitness Program
- Shooting Sports

**Cloverbud Members**

- Cloverbud Activities
- Cloverbud working with equine or other animal programs

**4-H Equine (Horse) Activities**

- Participating in an equine club
- Working with equines beyond club level including clinics, camps, shows
- Working with equines in mounted "over fences" activities. I (the parent/legal guardian) am aware that my child will be participating in

4-H Horse Program mounted "over fences" activities at Cornell University Cooperative Extension Chemung County, multiple county, regional, or state sponsored events. I give my child permission to participate. Mounted "over fences" classes in the NYS 4-H Horse Program could include ground rail, cross rail, and/or other over fences classes and obstacles (this does include trail class). The obstacles will be no higher than 3 foot in any of the 4-H activities.

*Cornell Cooperative Extension-Chemung County*  
Permission Slip and Medical Release Form

**Please print:**

Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

In case of emergency, contact \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Work: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Club: \_\_\_\_\_

**Activity:** Chemung County 4-H program year **Date(s):** Oct 1 – Sept 30 20\_\_\_\_ **Location(s):** Chemung County 4-H Program

**Medical History** or concerns for the 4-H program – (include items such as allergies, or diagnoses)

Current prescribed medication (specify):

On the back of this form, specify any other health concerns, physical activity restrictions, or other information you want the chaperons or director of this activity to be aware of on behalf of your child's welfare. Also indicate if your child requires any special dietary needs.

Name of Medical Insurance Company or Government Program (Medicaid, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

Identification/Policy # \_\_\_\_\_

Family Physician's Name and Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

***Permissions Granted***

1. I hereby give my child permission to fully participate (subject to the restrictions noted) in the Cornell Cooperative Extension activity on the date(s) and at the location(s) indicated above.
2. I further grant permission to the director of the activity (or authorized designee) to dispense to my child any prescribed medication he/she is currently taking.
3. I understand that I will be notified in case of serious injury or illness. However, in the event that I cannot be reached, I hereby give permission for my child named above to be medically treated by a physician or medical facility as appropriate.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

*Parent or Guardian*

*Cornell Cooperative Extension of Chemung County is an employer and educator recognized for valuing AA/EEO, Protected Veterans, and Individuals with Disabilities and provides equal program and employment opportunities.*