

Cornell Cooperative Extension | Onondaga County

VOLUNTEER CODE OF CONDUCT

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Onondaga County volunteers serving accept responsibility to represent CCE Onondaga with dignity and pride serving as a positive role model for program participants and adhering to the following standards of behavior when engaged in assigned volunteer activities.

To maintain a responsible relationship with Cornell Cooperative Extension, I will:

- Respect and adhere to CCE Onondaga rules, policies, and guidelines that relate to volunteer activity and the program I serve.
- Execute CCE Onondaga business in an ethical manner.
- Preserve the confidentiality of information (and sign confidentiality agreement, if required by my volunteer role) about program participants and CCE internal affairs that have been entrusted to me.
- Refrain from using my CCE volunteer status for personal or business financial gain.
- Fulfill my assigned volunteer duties, including completion of required records or reports, in a timely manner.
- Use my time wisely and work cooperatively with Extension staff and other volunteers.
- Participate in required training programs and use the recommended policies and procedures.
- Accept supervision and support from professional Extension staff and/or supervisory volunteers.

To maintain a respectful relationship with individuals encountered through volunteer activities, I will:

- Respect and uphold the rights and dignity of all staff, other volunteers and all individuals who participate in CCE programs recognizing that people's values, beliefs, customs, and strengths differ.
- Encourage participation of and respect for individuals of diverse backgrounds, cultures, and perspectives.
- Refrain from the use of alcohol, tobacco, and inappropriate language.
- Commit no illegal or abusive act including but not limited to sexual harassment or any form of harassment.

To maintain a safe and healthful environment for program participants, volunteers will:

- Follow [child protection guidelines](#);
- Refrain from the use of alcohol, marijuana, vaping, and inappropriate language, especially in the presence of minors and, never attend or participate in a CCE activity or event under the influence of alcohol or controlled substances;
- Use tobacco products only where legally permitted and refrain from the use of tobacco products while conducting or assisting in any Extension program or in other group situations that may glamorize such use in the eyes of young people;
- Bring no firearm to any CCE program except when essential to purposes for the program;
- Report all unsafe conditions and accidents to professional Extension staff as soon as possible;
- Handle any animals, machinery, equipment, vehicles or other CCE property that has been entrusted to me in a safe and responsible manner;
- Observe all state and federal laws with respect to power equipment and minors;
- Report potential incidences of sexual harassment (or any form of harassment) to supervising staff or volunteer coordinator, if experiencing, witnessing, or aware of potential incidences.