

Key Points in Reviewing the 4-H Code of Conduct at 4-H Camp

Introduction

Keep in mind that the review is essential to insure that 4-H'ers are aware of the extent of the Code of Conduct as it relates to their behavior. While most 4-H'ers will understand that drinking alcohol would be a violation, they may not realize that threatening each other even in jest is also a violation. We will need to be sure that we are clear in expectations. The 4-H Code of Conduct is divided into three sections: expectations of behavior, and two different consequences of misbehavior. This review is not reading the 4-H Code of Conduct over again but to remind youth of what they have signed and what is expected.

Key Points

- We will be living in close quarters and spending a lot of time together. Treat others as you expect to be treated.
- Listen to the adults and follow the rules, even if you don't like the rules. If you are asked to sit and listen, sit and listen. If you are asked to quiet down and go to sleep, quiet down and go to sleep.
- We are counting on everyone to be on time to activities and to be where you need to be. If you are unsure ask an adult or counselor.
- Some of us may like to play jokes or make fun but others do not. We must respect each other's feelings. If you can't say something nice, don't say anything at all.
- When we are frustrated with each other, we will smile and walk away or find an adult, counselor or teen leader to talk to. We will not threaten each other or tell each other we will hurt each other.
- We will keep our hands to ourselves. Our bodies will not touch each other's bodies in hurtful ways. We won't punch, pinch, slap or hit. And we won't use something else to do this either.
- We have our own space. Our cabin is our space; our room is our space; our bunk is our space. We stay in our own space. We do not go inside other people's cabins, rooms or areas.
- If you have a problem, if you don't like the way someone is treated or how you have been treated, first ask them to stop. If they are not willing to accept your request, talk with an adult.
- We want to tell the truth. We want to share our worries and concerns but we want to be sure we are truthful. If you have not seen it, done or been part of it, don't repeat it.

Keep in Mind

If your 4-H'ers are not clear in the expectations, share more specific examples. Kids hear lots of threats and disrespectful words in the media and in other places. They may think the behavior is okay. We will contact legal authorities for possession or use of illegal drugs or a weapon, assault or harassment or inappropriate sexual behavior. 4-H'ers understand drugs or handguns are wrong but they may not shoving with a broom could be assault and use of a weapon, just as popping with a towel is as well; saying "I'm going to beat you up" is a threat or harassment; slapping on the butt can be sexual behavior. Our goal is to help 4-H'ers better understand not to scare or frighten youth.