Texas 4-H and Youth Development Consequences of Misbehavior

Violators May Expect:
To have the opportunity to explain actions to the professional Extension staff in charge.
Behavior that is disruptive to the event will be documented and a letter describing such will be sent to the District 4-H Leadership Team, 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 and using language that is offensive to 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 bodily harm*
5. *Cheating*
6. *Sexual activities*
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*

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 and Youth Development programs forthe remainder of the 4-H year, along with the possibilities of facing criminal charges, pending offense. In addition, 4-H member may be asked to resign from all 4-H offices or leadership roles held or give up monetary awards or scholarships from the Texas 4-H program.

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. In addition, 4-H member may be asked to resign from all 4-H offices or leadership roles held or 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. In addition 4-H member may be asked to resign from all 4-H offices or leadership roles held or to give up monetary awards or scholarships from the Texas 4-H program.

Course Of Action

Event managers responsible for 4-H events and activities are encouraged to communicate to 4-H participants and adult chaperones prior to the event a standard of acceptable behavior, via the Commitment to Excellence. Standards of behavior and consequences should be reviewed with participants as part of the initial orientation.

1. Event Manager obtains all the relevant facts.
2. Brief the on-site adult responsible for the youth delegate (Extension faculty member or 4-H volunteer).
3. If not on-site, but available via phone, brief the county Extension faculty member and District Extension Administrator responsible.
4. Review consequences of misbehavior. The following steps should be taken when sending a 4-H member home:
   Extension faculty member contacts parents.
   Parents advised that child is being sent home by safest, most direct means, and that parents are responsible for cost.
   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 event's manager to appropriate county Extension faculty member, District 4-H Leadership Team, 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, Texas 4-H Program Director and the Associate Directors for 4-H, Youth and Human Sciences and County Programs. Additionally, notification will be made to District 4-H Leadership Team prior to letter and form being mailed..

I have read the Texas 4-H Commitment to Excellence 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. I have reviewed and understand the Consequences of Misbehavior.

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 or Guardian	Date

7/2013