

## Code of Conduct

The 4-H Code of Conduct, **F.Y.4-H - 686 (MSWord Template)** or if you need the Spanish version **F.Y.4-H - SP686 (MSWord Template)**, will be used as the official document for dealing with infractions by 4-H members. See the **4-H Review Board Procedures** for details.

The primary goal of the Arkansas 4-H program is to build character in youth while participating in 4-H. Arkansas promotes the six core ethical values of the **CHARACTER COUNTS!** curriculum: trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring and citizenship. Unethical behavior, including but not limited to dishonesty by lying, deception or omission in conjunction with any 4-H activity/event will not be tolerated. 4-H youth or adults accused of unethical behavior will be subject to the appropriate county, district or state Review Board or to an alternate 4-H event review committee (see note below) to determine future 4-H participation and eligibility for awards and recognition. Failure to act with good character could result in loss of privileges for current or for future 4-H events. The alternate review committee will be structured as the standard 4-H event review committee and be formed only if a violation occurs.

**Note:** For district, state, or national activities, it is the intent that violations of the Code of Conduct be handled at the 4-H event when they occur; however, if insufficient time or circumstances do not allow the event review board to function, or the infraction is reported after the conclusion of the event, an alternate event review board may be called up to 30 days after the conclusion of the event with the approval of the Associate Director - Family, Youth and 4-H Education. The review board will forward its findings and recommendations to the Associate Director - Family, Youth and 4-H Education for final decision.

County review boards should be appointed annually to address issues related to county 4-H events. Findings of the county review board affecting an individual's participation in district, state, national and international 4-H events should be reported to the Assistant Director - 4-H Youth Development on the 4-H Review Board Proceeding Report form.

If a delegate attending an out-of-state event violates the 4-H Code of Conduct, the event review board has the right to send that member home by airplane or other appropriate means of transportation at the parents' expense.

### **Livestock Project Code of Ethics:**

The Cooperative Extension Service conducts and supervises the educational components of the 4-H youth livestock program. 4-H livestock projects are designed for youth to learn skills that will insure the proper care of animals, develop responsibility, and promote family involvement. All adult supervision and training provided for livestock projects should be directed toward enhancing the education of youth. Participation in competitive activities should always instill a strong personal code of ethics.

Existing state and federal laws and the rules and regulations governing individual livestock exhibitions should be enforced. Unethical behavior in conjunction with 4-H livestock projects will not be tolerated. 4-H youth and adults found by show officials to be in violation of existing laws and/or show rules regarding unethical and unlawful practices will be subject to a livestock 4-H review committee to determine future 4-H participation. This livestock review committee will be structured as the standard 4-H review committee and be formed only if a violation occurs. Penalties may range from a 3-month suspension from 4-H to the remaining years of 4-H eligibility.