NEVADA 4-H

4-H Commitment to Excellence/Code of Conduct

(Approved/Revised; August 2010)

The mission of 4-H is to teach subject matter and life skills through a process of “hands on” interaction and leadership skills that help youth meet their development needs. In order to accomplish this, 4-H must create an atmosphere of cooperation and teamwork that is coupled with an environment that is positive and conducive to educational learning and personal growth. As a result, 4-H requires all members/leaders or participating adults to adhere to a set of standards that allow the University of Nevada Cooperative Extension (UNCE), Nevada 4-H, and the 4-H Mission to be successful. It is understood that no list is complete, but below are a few minimum standards all members/leaders or participating adults are expected to maintain and follow in order for the UNCE, 4-H, and the 4-H Mission to be successful and beneficial.

- All members/leaders or participating adults shall demonstrate a commitment to the vision, mission, and core values of the Nevada 4-H Youth Development Program. Core values include, but are not limited to, life skill development and youth development of/for all members of the 4-H Program.
- All members/leaders or participating adults shall follow directions/guidance of UNCE/4-H Staff and support UNCE/4-H.
- All members/leaders or participating adults shall demonstrate and utilize (at all times) courtesy and respect to all people (youth, parents, leaders, presenters, UNCE/4-H Personnel, etc). Respect and courtesy includes, but is not limited to, proper manners and appropriate language (shouting, screaming, and swearing are not permitted).
- All members/leaders or participating adults shall not hit, bully, harass/haze, use discriminatory language, or be insubordinate to other people. All laws (local, state, and federal) and all policies of UNCE/4-H pertaining to these issues (as well as all other issues) shall be followed at all times by all members and all parents/guardians.
- 4-H conducts many and varied Educational Programs and Youth Development Programs. All members/leaders or participating adults are expected to know and follow the rules of Nevada 4-H and the rules established for specific events that are of interest to them. Participation in all aspects of a program is expected. In the event of a conflict, sickness, etc, a member or parent/guardian shall inform those in charge of the program of the situation.
- All participants in 4-H Programs shall not leave the program or program area/location (building, camp, etc) without permission form the person responsible for the program.
- Most 4-H Programs (ie. Shooting Sports) require the presence of a parent/guardian. If there is a conflict, arrangements must be made (by the parent/guardian) for another adult to take their place. Failure to make the proper arrangements will result in the member not participating in that program for that session. Multiple absences (without proper arrangements being made) by the parent/guardian may result in the member being barred from participation in that program.
- At all times, all members/leaders or participating adults shall have respect for the property and facilities utilized to conduct 4-H Programs and 4-H Programming. Furthermore, they are responsible for any damage they cause.
- During overnight activities, all participants are expected to observe curfew and shall be in their designated rooms during the time stated for that night.
- Members shall never enter the rooms of members of the opposite sex, unless accompanied by a chaperone.
- 4-H encourages interaction among youth, but not exclusively with another person. Kissing and other displays of affection distract from the group and from the 4-H Mission; and are not considered appropriate behavior. At all times, all displays of public affection shall be avoided.

**All members shall always dress as appropriate for each event/activity. For example: “Official 4-H Dress” when required, “English Clothing” when in “English Horse Events”, white clothing when showing dairy cattle, and so on.**

- Youth who can legally operate (license, insurance, etc) a motor vehicle, may do so as long as all motor vehicle laws are followed.
- All members shall not use tobacco, alcohol, drugs (except those prescribed by a doctor), or fireworks during 4-H Events. All members may only handle firearms under the direction of a 4-H Shooting Sports Instructor.
- At all times, all members/leaders or participating adults shall treat animals/people in a humane and proper manner.
- At all times, all members/leaders or participating adults shall display ethical conduct at all times at all 4-H Programs/Events.
- The Josephson Institute has developed a Youth Development Principle/Program called The Six Pillars of Character and Nevada 4-H has incorporated this Youth Development Concept. At all 4-H Events, all members/leaders or participating adults shall exhibit these pillars of character: trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and citizenship.

I, as a 4-H Member/Leader or participating adult, have read and understood the content and intent of the policies of the above Commitment to Excellence/Code of Conduct or in lieu of reading and understanding the content and intent of the policies contained herein, the content and intent of these policies were explained to me. I also understand that non-compliance may result in loss of 4-H Eligibility and the member being sent home at the expense of the parent/guardian.

Signature and Acceptance of Content & Policies __________________________________________ Date_____________

Signature of Parent/Guardian “A” (if under 18) __________________________________________ Date_____________

Signature of Parent/Guardian “B” (if under 18) __________________________________________ Date_____________