

The University of Georgia Cooperative Extension Volunteer Agreement

Thank you for agreeing to volunteer with the University of Georgia Cooperative Extension program. In signing this agreement you are confirming your acceptance for a volunteer role.

1. I agree to serve as a volunteer with UGA under the primary direction of _____ Cooperative Extension. (*fill in county or unit name*) I understand that if my role involves supervising youth, I will be required to complete a UGA background check and that some duties may include additional training and orientation.
2. I agree that my participation in the activities is not in exchange for any consideration (e.g., pay, benefits, the promise of future employment). I acknowledge that, in exchange for my service as a volunteer, I have neither been promised any consideration nor do I expect to receive any consideration. I understand that additional duties may be assigned or specific duties expanded.
- 3.

Adult Behavior Guidelines when Working with Youth



The University of Georgia Cooperative Extension program establishes the following guidelines for adults working with youth in programming. These are general behavioral expectations for any adult including both paid staff and volunteers working or volunteering in a capacity which includes working with children under the age of eighteen and/or youth considered program participants.

Adults are expected to:

Work cooperatively with youth, families, University of Georgia faculty, staff, volunteers, community members and others in a courteous, respectful manner demonstrating behaviors appropriate for a positive role model.

Represent the University of Georgia College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences' Cooperative Extension programs with pride and dignity, behave appropriately, exhibit good sportsmanship, and demonstrate reasonable conflict management skills.

Respect, adhere, and enforce the 4-H Code of Conduct as well as other rules, policies and guidelines established by UGA Extension and event coordinators including state laws and regulations.

Recognize that physical punishment is not an appropriate form of discipline and will not be allowed.

Physical punishment includes physical actions that may not be expected of an individual during the program and are assigned to a young person as a consequence for misbehavior.

Recognize that verbal abuse, physical abuse, or committing criminal acts may be grounds for termination as an Extension volunteer. Abusive behavior towards youth or other adults including failure to provide adequate health and safety measures, inadequate care or supervision, emotional mistreatment of members, or verbal or physical abuse will not be tolerated.

Under Georgia law, report any mistreatment of youth to the proper authorities. Adults should immediately contact the person coordinating the Extension program/event, UGA Police, and the Division of Family and Children services if the adult believes a child is being abused. Failure to report child abuse is grounds for criminal charges.

Comply with equal opportunity and anti-discrimination laws and policies. The University of Georgia prohibits harassment of or discrimination against any person because of race, color, sex (including sexual harassment and pregnancy), sexual orientation, gender identity, ethnicity or national origin, religion, age, genetic information, disability, or veteran status.

Treat animals humanely and encourage youth and adults to provide appropriate and ethical care.

Strive for a minimum of two adults at any activity involving youth. Adults, in most cases, should not be left alone with a single child unless the adult is the parent/guardian of that child.

To be housed in overnight settings in separate sleeping areas from children when possible. When this is not possible, parent/guardians should be furnished a letter explaining the situation and informing the parent/guardian that his/her child will be housed with an adult in the same room.

Under no circumstances, to condone others use of or personally consume, or be under the influence of, or demonstrate any impairment from alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs/controlled substances during Extension youth programs, events and/or activities.

Operate machinery, vehicles, and other equipment in a safe and responsible manner.

Accept responsibility to promote, conduct, and support 4-H in order to develop an effective local, county, district and state program.

Recognize the following behaviors are inappropriate and will not be tolerated in the presence of youth during Extension youth activities or events:

- o consumption of alcohol, illegal drugs, and controlled substances
- o promotion of religious or political preferences
- o theft, pilfering, or fraud
- o use of tobacco products and e-cigarettes
- o sexual advances or activities involving youth
- o willful damaging of property
- o permitting passengers to ride in motor vehicles without seatbelts
- o permitting youth or adults to ride in the back of trucks
- o behaviors that are illegal under law

Revised 05/2017

I have reviewed and understand the Adult Behavior Guidelines.

Volunteer's Initials

Date