



Consequences of Misbehavior

Participants will have the opportunity to explain his/her actions to the professional Extension employee in charge of program.

Behavior that is disruptive of the Texas 4-H Program and/or unbecoming of a youth's role as a member/leader within the program will be documented and a letter describing such will be sent to the District 4-H Leadership Team (District 4-H Specialist and District Extension Administrator), County Extension Agent(s) and parents/guardians of those involved. Examples of offenses are listed below but are not limited to the list. Offense categories for these examples could shift depending on the severity and/or frequency of the offense.

Minor Offenses

1. Habitually late to program activities.
2. Not in room at designated time.
3. Not respecting the rights and privacy of those rooming with or attending an activity.
4. Lying or untruthfulness to chaperones, leaders, event organizers or others in attendance.
5. Not being respectful to 4-H staff, volunteers, or not following their instructions and/or rules.
6. Not adhering to the dress code.
7. Not displaying good manners.
8. Using threatening or obscene language toward others.

Intermediate Offenses

1. Inappropriate visitation.
2. Leaving a 4-H activity without the permission of staff member(s) in charge.
3. Misuse of or publishing misleading information on a social media account.
4. Intentional damage to meeting site, sleeping quarters, person, or other person's property.

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 causing bodily harm.
5. Cheating
6. Sexual activities or harassment.
7. Theft of any kind.
8. Violation of the law.
9. Violation of livestock ethics policy.
10. Bullying or cyber-bullying.
11. 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 most minor offenses, a 4-H member will receive a verbal reprimand unless the behavior is a chronic issue, which may require additional documentation and response.
- For every intermediate and major offense, the 4-H member will receive a verbal and written reprimand and the violator shall write letters of apology to the appropriate people.

Major Offenses

- 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 Youth Development programs for the remainder of the 4-H year, along with the possibilities of facing criminal charges.
- 4-H member may be asked to resign from all 4-H offices and/or leadership roles held as well as be required to give up monetary awards or scholarships from the Texas 4-H program.
- May lead to termination of 4-H membership.
- May result in notification of incident to legal authorities.
- May result in disqualification of all state validated animal projects.

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.
- 4-H member may be asked to resign from all 4-H offices and/or leadership roles held as well as be required to give up monetary awards or scholarships from the Texas 4-H program.

