

# Arkansas 4-H Chaperone Training/Youth Protection Part 1

## Volunteer Training Series

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# Educational Objectives

- Increase knowledge for creating a Positive Environment
- Understanding your role as volunteer leader chaperoning children at a 4-H event
- To gain knowledge on behavior considerations with 4-H members



# Ages & Stages

Teaching and behavior considerations for youth

- Shorter attention span
- Avoid being too critical
- Keep it light and fun
- Be patient
- Know your audience



# Ages & Stages

Age considerations-

- 9-11
- 12-14
- 15-18



# Guiding Principles

- Be Present
- Choose Your Attitude
- Play
- Make Their Day



# Arkansas 4-H Chaperone Training Part 2 Behavior Management

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# Educational Objective

- Increase knowledge of 4-H Behavior Management with youth
- Understanding your role as volunteer leader chaperoning children at a 4-H event
- To gain knowledge on behavior considerations with 4-H members



# Setting Boundaries

- Boundaries must be defined
- Freedom & limits vary with each child
- Limits should be few & enforceable
- The child should make decisions within the boundaries





# Rules

- Serve as expectations of behavior
- Be clear
- Be limited
- Be enforceable
- Use the 4-H member code of conduct
- Be age appropriate
- Involve youth in setting
- Will not cover everything



# Consequences

- Immediate
- Related to the rule broken
- Fair
- Appropriate for the situation
- Should be age appropriate
- Could involve youth



# Rewards

- Should promote satisfaction in a job well done
- Rewards should not always be present
  - As good behavior should be a standard



# Determine Discipline Direction

Ask yourself the following questions...

- Is the child doing something truly wrong?
- Is your child really capable of doing what you expect here?
- Did your child know at the time that she/he was doing something wrong?



# What is Discipline?

- Educational process
- Develop the self-control & self-direction
- Assume responsibilities



# Preventing Problem Behavior

- The environment is conducive to positive interaction
- Program activities are flexible
- Activities are age appropriate



# Reasons for Problem Behavior

- Attention
- Power
- Revenge
- Inadequacy



# Discipline Don'ts

- Don't make threats
- Don't pretend to know everything
- Don't punish the whole group
- Don't use physical punishment

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# Discipline Strategies

- Fix-up
- Ignore
- Be firm
- Stay in Control
- Separation
- Behavior Management
- Redirection
- Praise



# Arkansas 4-H Chaperone Training Part 3

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# Educational Objectives

## **YOU WILL LEARN AND UNDERSTAND:**

- Extensions' Non-Discrimination and Diversity Policies
- Volunteer Leaders' Role in Outreach Efforts to Increase Diversity in 4-H Clubs
- Cooperative Extension Services' Youth and Adult Protection Policies



# Educational Objectives

- Volunteer Leaders’ Responsibility as Chaperones and leaders
- Volunteer Leaders’ Requirement under Arkansas Law to Report Child Abuse or Neglect (Mandated Reporters)



# Extensions' 4-H Non-Discrimination Policy

- During the history of USDA and its programs, many allegations of discrimination were made and substantiated. Minorities were denied access to many of the USDA programs and services.
- Because of this historical discrimination, federal guidelines and laws have been implemented to insure discriminatory practices are not taken place in programs supported or funded by the USDA, including Extension services and programs.



# Extensions' 4-H Non-Discrimination Policy

The Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service 4-H program is open to all youth between the ages of 5 and 19 without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, gender, or any other legally protected status.



# Extensions' Diversity

- In addition, the Cooperative Extension Service also commits itself to a policy of inclusiveness and diversity with respect to our programs and participants.
- We strive to create an educational environment that are as inclusive as possible. We comply with these policies not merely because of legal requirements, but because we believe that such practices are basic to human dignity.



# Extensions' Diversity

## How Can You Help Promote Our Diversity Policy?

- Recognize the importance of diversity.
- Always show respect for differences in the cultures and traditions of others.
- Invite or encourage others from different cultural backgrounds to learn about 4-H.



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# Youth Protection Standards

- Adult supervision
- Adult interaction with youth.
- Respect of privacy
- Housing
- Transportation
- Proper attire



# Youth Protection Standards

- Adult Supervision

- At least 1:8 ratio
- Two non-related adults at all times
- Overnight, two volunteers, one over 21; if activity includes both male & female youth, then volunteers must be both male & female.



# Youth Protection Standards

- Adult interaction with youth.

- A positive and professional interaction between volunteers and youth is extremely important and beneficial to the existence of a quality 4-H educational environment.
- **However, be mindful of your physical contact with youth members.**
  - Might touch a child to offer encouragement or aid in instruction.
  - **NO** one-on-one contact
  - **NEVER** touch a child against their will.
  - **NEVER** tickle or wrestle with youth.



# Youth Protection Standards

- Respect for Privacy

- Must respect privacy of youth in situations such as changing clothes, taking showers, using restrooms.
- Only intrude to the extent that health and safety require.



# Youth Protection Standards

- Housing

- Overnight chaperones are expected to supervise and discipline youth assigned to their “cabin or room.”
- 4-H members should not be allowed to change rooms.
- Male 4-H members are not permitted in female 4-H members’ rooms and vice versa.



# Youth and Adult Protection Standards

- Housing

- 4-H members should not be allowed to miss scheduled activities, break curfew, etc.
- Chaperones are discouraged from entering the rooms of 4-H members of the opposite gender.
- Chaperones have responsibility to ensure youth are in their rooms at night. roll checks should be conducted



# Youth and Adult Protection Standards

- Housing

- An adult and one 4-H member **ARE NOT** permitted to share a room unless the adult is parent/guardian of the 4-H member.

Married couples may share the same quarters if appropriate facilities are available and adequate supervision can be provided to youth by remaining staff and volunteers.



# Youth and Adult Protection Standards

- **Transportation**

- Highly encouraged and a best practice for two (2) adults to be in a vehicle while transporting youth members.

- \*If this is not possible, at least one (1) adult with two (2) or more youth members.

- Must use all safety precautions.

- \*Youth ONLY ride in seats with belts.





# Youth and Adult Protection Standards

- Transportation

- Must meet for departure at a designated location.
- Pre-arranged schedule should be developed with periodic checkpoint



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# Reporting Suspected Abuse or Neglect

The Arkansas Child Maltreatment Act **legally requires** certain professions to report suspected abuse and/or neglect.

- **Mandated Reporters-**
  - **Volunteers Leaders of the 4-H Program are Mandated Reporters**
  - Must report if you have “reasonable cause to suspect” that a child has been abused.
  - Call the Child Abuse Hotline, 1-800-482-5964
  - The Act also protects mandated reporters who report in good faith from criminal and civil liabilities.
  - Your name will not be released when you report.
- **In addition, you must notify Event Coordinator.**

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# Arkansas 4-H Chaperone Training Part 4 Health & Safety

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# Educational Objectives

- Increased knowledge of safe camping/overnight stay principles
- Understanding health and safety requirements during 4-H events



# Putting Safety First

- Each year, 8,000 children die from preventable accidents, and 50,000 more are permanently disabled.
- One in four children under the age of 15 require medical attention due to accidents, fires, burns, drowning, falls, poisoning, and choking.

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# Handling Emergencies Before They Happen

- Discuss emergency procedures with staff
- Identify emergency trained staff.
- Know where the first aid kit is located.

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# Handling Emergencies Before they Happen

- Know where emergency numbers can be found.
- Know the best route to each hospital.
- Be familiar with any special medical conditions of campers.



# Handling Emergencies

- Take prompt, appropriate action
- Assess the condition of the victim
- Call or send for help if needed
- Inform the lead 4-H professional
- Clear the scene.





# Crisis Management

- Notify the lead Extension staff involved with the event.
- Identify witnesses.
- Preserve physical evidence.
- Make a written record of what happened immediately.
- Only talk about the facts.



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# The End

Thank You for your time!

