

Mentor – Member Code of Conduct

4-H Canada Science Fair

As a positive youth development organization, 4-H Canada is committed to providing safe, inclusive, and fun experiential learning opportunities for 4-H members in Canada and beyond. All of the caring adults who engage with 4-H members in this program will be encouraged to read and understand our Code of Conduct. This includes parents, 4-H leaders, and Mentors. If you are a Mentor working directly with a 4-H member, we ask that you read and sign the Code of Conduct, which details the appropriate behaviour expected of you as you work with youth members. All participating youth members will also be asked sign the 4-H Member Code of Conduct (see below).

4-H Canada has outlined the following standards as expectations and guidelines for adults supporting youth in the 4-H Canada Science Fair.

As a Science Mentor, and positive role model, I will:

- Engage the 4-H member's mind and encourage them to be curious.
- Challenge the 4-H member to be detail oriented in their project work; asking questions to improve the depth of the project, but never make the member feel inadequate.
- Offer resources that may help the 4-H member's learning experience and science project.
- Value the 4-H member's learning experience over my own expectations of the science project.
- Lead by example. This includes, but is not limited to, respecting intellectual and physical property, good sportsmanship, and honesty.
- Ensure that all experiments using animals or humans adhere to the Youth Science Canada Code of Ethics (available at <http://cwsf.youthscience.ca/node/835>).
- NOT do the 4-H member's project for them.
- Always put the safety and best interests of the 4-H youth member first.
- Work cooperatively with youth, families, volunteers, 4-H staff and others.
- Be respectful and courteous, demonstrating positive and appropriate behavior at all times.
- Respect the privacy of others, including youth.
- Respect the facilities used for 4-H activities.
- Respect, be open to, and take into consideration, the opinions and viewpoints of others, including those of youth members.
- Use appropriate language that is respectful, polite, non-judgmental and kind.
- Avoid situations in which I will be alone in a closed room with the 4-H member at any time. If a situation requires me to be alone with the member, I will keep the door open.
- Handle funds in an ethical manner. Funds must be expended for the 4-H member's science project purposes only. The member should handle the money, and they should keep accurate records.
- Refrain from using drugs and/or alcohol when working with the 4-H member.



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- Notify 4-H Canada of any incident that causes me concern.
- Report and document any suspicion and/or disclosure of abuse to the authorities.
- Ensure my behaviour always represents the 4-H Canada brand.

While participating in 4-H activities I will not:

- Use profanity, shout or display disrespectful conduct.
- Harass, taunt, ridicule, discriminate against or attack others (this includes verbally, in writing or by the use of social media).
- Use threats of violence or harm youth in any way. This includes hitting, shoving, pushing or any other behaviour that is likely to cause a participant to feel unsafe, singled-out or uncomfortable. Sexual harassment, physical force, verbal abuse, mental abuse, neglect or bullying are not tolerated and will be dealt with according to the law.
- Touch anyone in an inappropriate way or engage in sexual behaviour.
- Drive any 4-H member in any vehicle without a valid driver's license, without proof of automobile liability insurance, while impaired or without ensuring that all passengers use appropriate restraints (ex: seatbelts, etc).
- Engage in any behaviour that negatively impacts the 4-H program.

Please note that in addition to this 4-H Canada Code of Conduct, local, provincial, and/or other national 4-H organizations may have additional guidelines and/or policies that need to be adhered to. It is the responsibility of the participant to ensure that he/she makes you aware of and understands these additional expectations and responsibilities.

By reading this document, I understand that I am expected to abide by the 4-H Canada Code of Conduct for Mentors. I accept that my continued involvement with 4-H Canada is contingent upon my compliance with these guidelines, and that failure to comply may result in being removed from 4-H activities.

Signature of adult participant

Date



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4-H Canada has outlined the following standards as expectations and guidelines for 4-H Canada Science Fair youth participants:

As a 4-H member and Science Fair participant, I will:

- Be completely responsible for my project. The Science Fair project is my own work – a Mentor’s role is to provide advice and guidance, not to do the work for me.
- Take responsibility to come up with my project topic. I must take all measurements, calculate data, write my logbook and report, and create my own PowerPoint and/or additional materials.
- Respect my Mentor’s time. I understand their time is valuable, so I will be punctual, and be prepared to make the most of their time.
- Take the initiative to contact my Mentor, and make all arrangements, such as transportation, meeting times, supplies, etc.
- Follow the safety rules and any safety training I am given.
- Be respectful if I am given access to someone's lab, equipment and/or property, and will treat all spaces and equipment with care.
- Accurately describe the level of my mentorship (refer to Guidebook), and my Mentor’s role in my project.

Please note that in addition to this 4-H Canada Code of Conduct, local, provincial, and/or other national 4-H organizations may have additional guidelines and/or policies that need to be adhered to. It is the responsibility of the participant to ensure that he/she understands these additional expectations and responsibilities.

By reading this document, I understand that I am expected to abide by the 4-H Canada Code of Conduct for 4-H members. I accept that my 4-H Canada Science Fair project requires me to follow the Code of Conduct, and that failure to do so may result in my project being disqualified.

Signature of youth participant

Date

Signature of parent (if youth participant is under 18 years of age)

Date

