

Owyhee County Code of Conduct for 4-H & FFA Youth, 4-H Leaders, FFA Advisors and Parents/Guardians

Code of Conduct. All Parents/Guardians, Volunteers, Advisors and 4-H/FFA Youth have signed and agreed to abide by the following Owyhee County Code of Conduct:

Idaho families and youth trust the University of Idaho Extension System to provide educational programs in a safe environment for all participants. The opportunity to participate in and/or work with Extension's Idaho 4-H Youth Development and FFA programs is a privilege and honor, not a right. Volunteers and Advisors are to be positive role models. Youth and parents/guardians are expected to demonstrate appropriate behavior at all times. This Code of Conduct has been established as the foundation for all individuals participating in University of Idaho Extension programs. This Code has been adopted by the Owyhee County Fair Board. All 4-H Youth Development and FFA program participants are expected to:

- Work with youth, families, volunteers and Extension personnel in a cooperative, courteous, respectful manner demonstrating good sportsmanship and behaviors appropriate for a positive role model.
- Accept supervision from Superintendents, the Fair Board, and Extension personnel regarding fair events/activities and cooperate with others. In addition, parents and youth will accept supervision from certified leaders and FFA advisors.
- Maintain open, honest communication with members, leaders, parents and Extension personnel.
- Uphold every individual's right to dignity, appropriate self-expression and individual development.
- Refrain from verbal, physical or emotional abuse of others (via bullying, texting, social media, etc.) and report such abuse, if observed. Any actions, such as conviction for child abuse or neglect, violent crimes, unethical behavior, substance abuse, verbal abuse, physical abuse, mismanagement of 4-H funds, or other serious offenses, will not be tolerated.
- Respect, adhere to, and enforce the rules, policies and guidelines established at the local and state levels for the 4-H Youth Development program, FFA Conduct Code and school district policies.
- Promote the spirit of inclusion and welcome participation of other individuals from all backgrounds. Comply with equal opportunity and anti-discrimination laws.
- The consumption of alcoholic beverages, use of tobacco products or a controlled substance at 4-H youth events is prohibited.
- Inform Extension personnel of any incidents that may violate 4-H/FFA policies.
- Treat animals humanely and encourage all participants to provide appropriate and ethical animal care.
- Operate machinery, vehicles, and other equipment in a safe and responsible manner when working with youth and adult participants in 4-H Youth Development and FFA programs.
- Ensure that 4-H and FFA participants are not required to purchase materials, equipment, animals or services from any specific places of business.
- Comply with all applicable laws of the city, county, and state of residence and/or location of 4-H/FFA activity.
- Handle all concerns regarding local/area 4-H/FFA program management internally within the University of Idaho Extension system and/or the FFA chapter sponsoring school district.
- Violating the Code of Conduct shall be grounds for action up to or including immediate removal from the 4-H/FFA activity/program, termination and removal from the fairgrounds for the duration of the Fair. Decisions regarding immediate removal, suspension or termination will be made by the Grievance Committee in cooperation with the local Extension office personnel with subsequent notification of and consultation with the District Director and State 4-H Director, and/or the FFA chapter sponsoring school district. Those who wish to appeal a decision may do so through the appeal process. *[The Code of Conduct for Parents/Guardians, Volunteers/Advisors and 4-H/FFA Youth MUST be signed at enrollment in order to participate. Electronic signature of acceptance when enrolling online constitutes acceptance and is also binding.]*

Rule Compliance. Anyone failing to comply with the Owyhee County Youth Exhibitor Rules may be prohibited from participation in the Owyhee County Fair the following year.

A **rule** is defined as an established guide or regulation for action, conduct, method or arrangement. A **grievance** is defined as a circumstance or condition thought to be unjust and grounds against a wrong, real or imagined, inflicting injury or hardship. A rule violation is **NOT** a grievance and cannot be brought to the Grievance Committee. Each family is ultimately responsible for reviewing and following the rules as they pertain to their child or children. If you want to propose a change to a rule you may do so for the following year at the wrap up meeting after the fair. Once the rules are approved by the Fair Board, Livestock Sale Committee, Leaders/Advisors, and Extension Office, they are in place for the entire year. The only exception would be for rare, unforeseen circumstances such as an animal health directive.

Chain of Communication at Fair. Youth → Parent/Guardian → Leader/Advisor → Superintendent → 4-H Program Coordinator/Extension Educator → Fair Grievance Committee comprised of one Extension Office member, one 4-H leader, one FFA advisor, one Fair Board member, and one Sale Committee member (if a market project is involved).

Appeal Process. After following the Chain of Communication outlined above, all decisions of the Fair Grievance Committee are final.