

12 Tips for Chaperones and Adults Working with Youth

*4-H Youth Development provides the opportunity for youth to
Experience MASTERY,
Develop INDEPENDENCE,
Feel a sense of BELONGING and
Practice GENEROSITY.*

1. ALWAYS keep health form information and private conversations **confidential** before, during and after the program. Immediately after your return home, return **original** health forms to the 4-H Office and/or destroy **copied** health forms by shredding.
2. NEVER discuss youth or adult leader health, behavior, or other topics of a personal nature within earshot of anyone. If it is necessary to discuss such matters with team or program leaders, do so behind closed doors.
3. ALWAYS keep the youth's basic needs foremost in mind: provide timely meals and rest stops, readily available beverages, protection from extreme heat or cold, and uninterrupted time to sleep. Never skip or delay meals, even if you might do so personally.
4. NEVER provide over-the-counter or prescription medications to youth. Dispense medications that the youth bring with them only with parents' written permission and specific direction for dosages and times they must be administered.
5. ALWAYS seek help as soon as possible for health or emotional issues and be careful not to dismiss them as frivolous.
6. NEVER place yourself in a compromising position where your actions could be misinterpreted. Never enter a youth's sleeping quarters without another adult of the same gender present; keep the room's door open. Don't hug or touch youth since such actions could be misinterpreted by the youth or by on-lookers.
7. ALWAYS assign numbers for taking roll in public so youth's names aren't announced. NEVER leave an area without taking roll by counting off to ensure all are present.
8. ALWAYS respect youth's confidentiality in program evaluations – after collecting them, immediately place them into a collection envelope and wait to read the compiled version that will be provided by the 4-H Office.
9. ALWAYS know the itinerary and program schedule in order to keep youth and other adults informed in a timely manner.
10. ALWAYS include youth in decision making and encourage program ownership by providing them with leadership opportunities.
11. ALWAYS be a positive role model – your smile and positive attitude set the tone for the experience.
12. ALWAYS remember that 4-H is FUN! Allow and encourage youth to enjoy themselves! Provide mixers and activities that encourage socializing.

