

Sportsmanship For Youth

The development of sportsmanship is an important part of growing up. To become contributing, competent, caring, capable adults, youth must develop sportsmanship.

It is important for people to be fair and generous competitors, good losers, and graceful winners. All participants in 4-H, junior fair, and other youth programs are expected to demonstrate each of the following elements of sportsmanship before, during, and after their participation.



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1. **Conduct:** Demonstrate and maintain high standards of personal behavior and conduct which become you as an individual and as a representative of your family, your club, your community, and the 4-H program or other youth program in which you are involved.
2. **Fairness:** Learn and follow the rules. Don't cheat. Be objective and honest in evaluating yourself and others.
3. **Honesty:** Be truthful, fair and straightforward in everything you say and do. Show integrity. Don't lie or deceive. Do your own work. Don't understate or overstate your abilities, skills, or accomplishments.
4. **Competition:** Accept that the nature of competition is seeking to get what others are seeking to get, involves rivalry between contestants to earn rewards, and results in both winners and losers.
5. **Courtesy:** Be well-mannered in your conduct. Be respectful, thoughtful, considerate, cooperative, friendly, and cheerful in your attitude and your behavior regardless of whether you do well or not, or whether you win or lose.

Don't argue with the judges or program organizers. When you have concerns, questions, or suggestions, be polite in expressing them.

Be respectful of other participants, spectators, program officials, judges, the media, your advisors, parents, and others. Give others the benefit of the doubt. Treat people, animals, and property the way you'd like to be treated. Practice self-control.

6. **Graceful Acceptance Of Results:** Accept judges' suggestions and the results with a positive attitude.

If you are not selected as a winner or if you receive a lower evaluation than you expect, don't gripe, complain, whine, pout, make excuses and blame others.

Congratulate those who win and perform better than you. Recognize, appreciate, and try to learn from the accomplishments and positive traits of others. Learn from, and improve upon your own shortcomings. Don't make accusations unless you have proof, are willing to personally face the person(s) you are accusing, and are willing to accept the consequences.

If you are selected as a winner or receive a higher evaluation than you expect, graciously thank the people who congratulate you. Gloating, bragging, and conceit are disrespectful behaviors.

Regardless of the outcome thank your parents, volunteers, program organizers, sponsors, judges, and others who have helped you.