



University of California
Agriculture and Natural Resources

Cooperative Extension – Monterey County



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Hello 4-H community,

The Monterey County Fair opens this week with a *Shake your Tail Feathers* theme. The Monterey County 4-H Program supports the volunteer opportunities that builds caring, competent, safe and effective volunteers and provides a satisfying and rewarding experience for the adult volunteer that is beneficial to all 4-H members.

For the 4-H member, there are many activities, contests, volunteer opportunities and responsibilities during this busy fair. This is also a time for adults to recognize their own limits and boundaries while at the fair.

Members and adults can both become tired, parents and volunteers can lose their patience and, even the most experienced Project Leader may need to gain “perspective” over a situation that can arise during the fair.

As an adult volunteer or parent, please be prepared to take personal responsibility for any interpersonal conflicts that may arise, whether with members, parents, guardians, other participating adults and or adult volunteers. Your actions will need to role model positive conflict resolution skills for the 4-H youth members.

In addition, the prohibitive behaviors of adult volunteers and youth members is set forth by the Youth Development Program (YDP) in the code of conduct: <http://4h.ucanr.edu/files/16404.pdf> The Monterey County Fair has updated their rules to ensure no alcohol is consumed or stored at areas where 4-H youth are gathered.

Serving as an adult volunteer is a privilege and at the invitation of the University of California. Volunteer participation is supervised by the county 4-H YDP staff and County Director. If you believe you have witnessed inappropriate behavior by an adult acting in their 4-H volunteer role capacity, please be prepared to document and present before the 4-H office staff. The forms and process can be found here: [http://cemonterey.ucanr.edu/4-H_Program/Forms - Misc/](http://cemonterey.ucanr.edu/4-H_Program/Forms_-_Misc/)

For parents who are not enrolled volunteers, please review the 4-H program parent expectations found at : <http://4h.ucanr.edu/files/187920.pdf> . Knowing and abiding by these are part of the family enrollment process.

Thank you all for supporting the spirit of the 4-H Program by *Making the Best Better* during the fair time and throughout the year.

Lorin Hofmann-Lurz
Monterey County 4-H Program Representative