

NEW ENGLAND 4-H PROGRAM AT THE BIG E CHAPERONE'S RESPONSIBILITIES

Notes for review:

This document is written to be a supplement to the dorm responsibilities.

It assumes that there are state rules for chaperones.

Add to dorm responsibilities. Any registered adult chaperone must stay in the second floor dorm area.

Who is a chaperone?

One who is responsible for the 4-H youth while participating in a Big E 4-H program.

Has authority to make decisions regarding the youth assigned to them.

May be serving as a 4-H ESE committee member in addition to serving as a chaperone.

May be a chaperone in the dormitory; but also may be responsible for youth on the grounds or as a part of the program in the barns or New England Center.

Must meet the requirements for volunteers in their home state 4-H program and be approved by their state 4-H contact or designee.

Chaperones must be age 21 or over.

All volunteers must be registered 4-H volunteers in their home state.

Duties:

Read and understand these responsibilities.

Attend scheduled orientation meetings.

Represent 4-H.

Be sensitive to the interactions with delegates and among delegates.

Assume temporary parental responsibility for youth that are assigned.

If assigned to dormitory supervision, follow and enforce the rules of the dorm.

Know who is assigned to you and how to reach parents and 4-H officials.

Be firm with the necessary rules while allowing youth the chance to develop self-discipline.

Allow youth to retain possession of their medications but the chaperone must be aware of what they are taking.

Encourage fun while demanding respect. Be one with the group instead of one of the group.

Know the goals of 4-H participation in the Big E and assist youth to reach them.

Avoid an over concentration on winning.

Set an example by obeying rules.

Exhibit dignified and restrained actions in expressing affection toward members of the opposite sex.

Participate positively and with enthusiasm. If leaving the area, assign responsibility to another qualified chaperone.

Exercise responsibility for all youth attending an event through expressing concern for their behavior where needed and communication with the appropriate chaperones.

Take such action that may be necessary to assign penalties to youth when rules are violated to include pointing out the violation, removal of privileges, contacting 4-H officials and parents, and removal from the event.

Chaperones are not to:

Drink alcoholic beverages on the days that you are responsible for youth.

Inappropriately touch, push or strike youth in any way.

Restrain a youth except for the purpose of protection of themselves or others.

How to deal with non-chaperone parents who attend:

Parents must understand that they have approved the participation of their child in the program and, within reasonable limits, must allow approved chaperones the opportunity to exercise their responsibility.

Emergency Protocol

Fairgrounds in general

In the case of a major emergency in the dormitory, or on the west side of the fairgrounds, all 4-H members, leaders and chaperones are to report to the front lawn of their respective state buildings along the Avenue of States and remain there until released by the 4-H Dormitory Supervisor.

Mallory Complex and New England Center

In case of emergency on the east side of the fairgrounds, all 4-H members, leaders and chaperones participating in activities in the Mallory Complex or New England Center should follow the instruction of Eastern States Exposition personnel or staff given through announcements and stay in a group with their volunteer leaders.