

Dear Potential Volunteer,

Let me take this opportunity to thank you for expressing an interest in becoming an Ohio State University Extension volunteer. Each year, thousands of volunteers contribute their time, energies, and talents that enable Ohio State University Extension to engage people in educational programs that meet their immediate needs.

According to *OSU Policy 1.50 Protection of Minors*, all individuals who are interested in volunteering with OSU Extension and working with a member of a vulnerable population (minors, elderly over age 65, or individuals with disabilities) must complete a selection process under the direction of an Extension professional.

To more efficiently and effectively support our service recipients, Ohio State University Extension has a policy concerning the selection of individuals who desire to volunteer for the organization in a long-term and/or higher risk position. Here is the entry process and approximate timeline that all new volunteers will follow:

- (1) complete an application and return to Extension office
- (2) have three references collected by Extension professionals; [2-3 weeks]
- (3) complete an interview, orientation training, receive a position description, and agree to and sign the latest Volunteer Standards of Behavior Form
- (4) submit to a criminal history fingerprint record check at your own cost
- (5) receive confirmation from Extension professionals of a clean fingerprint check [3 weeks]; and
- (6) maintain volunteer status by participating in an annual volunteer training program, depending on your area of service, be re-fingerprinted every 4 years, and maintain good standing with the Extension program.

Please know that all information related to the selection process may be updated periodically and will be kept in a secured file cabinet. This information will be kept on file for a minimum of three years following the receipt of your materials or the completion of your involvement as an Ohio State University Extension volunteer (whichever is longest). The release of information will follow The Ohio State University and Ohio State University Extension operating procedures and will be in accordance with Ohio law.

Working with individuals in your community can bring you immense satisfaction as you help them grow, learn, develop, and succeed. Additionally, volunteering provides you an opportunity to gain new skills, help others, and meet new friends. We hope that you recognize the tremendous benefits of volunteering and will join us in helping ensure that everyone involved has a positive, educational experience.

We appreciate your cooperation and look forward to potentially working with you!

Sincerely yours,

Caitlyn Romshak
Extension Educator, 4-H Youth Development

Last revised January 2020

Note: a generic position description is located on the following page for your information

Ohio 4-H Volunteer Application

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

Email: _____

Full Name: _____

Preferred Name: _____

Date of Birth (MM/DD/YY): _____

Mailing Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

County of Residence: _____

Primary Phone: _____

Secondary Phone: _____

Length of time at this address (years): _____

Please circle the appropriate response in each line

Gender	Male	Female	Gender Identity Not Listed	Prefer not to state	
Residence	Farm	Town/Rural (<10,000)	Town/City (10,000-50,000)	Suburb (< 50,000)	City (> 50,000)
Ethnicity:	Hispanic	Non-Hispanic	Prefer not to state		
Race:	White	Black/African American	American Indian Alaskan Native	Hawaiian Pacific Islander	Balance (other combinations)
				Asian	Prefer not to state

II. EMERGENCY CONTACT

Full Name: _____

Relationship to Member: _____

Contact Phone: _____

Contact Email: _____

III. VOLUNTEER TYPE

Please circle the appropriate response

Program Volunteer (committee)	Please List Committee:	
Camp Volunteer	Circle Role: Adult Volunteer or Camp Nurse	
Club Volunteer - Circle specific role to the right	Cloverbud Leader	Project Leader - teaching specific project skill
	Organizational Club Leader	Resource Volunteer - coordinates club activities
Project Volunteer	County project leader – shooting sports or other specialized projects	

List the 4-H Club you wish to apply to serve with.

4-H Club Name: _____



IV. OTHER INFORMATION

Military Service: I am serving in the Military
 No one in my family is currently serving
 My Parent serves My Sibling serves
 My Son/Daughter serves I/my spouse/partner serve

Branch of Service (circle)	Air Force	Army	Coast Guard	Marines	Navy	DOD Civilian	Not applicable
Branch Component (circle)	Active	Guard	Reserves	Not applicable			

Health Considerations/Notes (e.g., food allergy, diabetes, food allergies, special accommodations needed, etc....)

Are You a 4-H Alumni: YES NO State and County: _____

Why are you interested in volunteering for the Ohio State University Extension 4-H Program?

V. ABOUT YOU

Job Title: _____ **Employer:** _____
Work Phone: _____ **Ext.** _____

Previous Work Experience (list current or most recent experience first):

Employer	Position Title	Years	Contact Name	Contact Phone

Previous Volunteer Experience (list current or most recent experience first):

Organization	Volunteer Role	Years	Contact Name	Contact Phone



VI. REFERENCES

Reference 1

Name:		Relationship:	
Mailing Address:		City/State/Zip:	
Email:		Phone:	

Reference 2

Name:		Relationship:	
Mailing Address:		City/State/Zip:	
Email:		Phone:	

Reference 3

Name:		Relationship:	
Mailing Address:		City/State/Zip:	
Email:		Phone:	

VII. PHOTO RELEASE

Photo Release: Permission to use photographic form for promotion contingent upon completing volunteer process:

Ohio State University Extension would like to share the positive results of youth and volunteer participation in Extension and 4-H Youth Development events. However, in some cases, volunteers may prefer not to permit such publicity. The Ohio State University may publish in print, electronic, or video formats the likeness or image of me/my child. I release all claims against the University with respect to copyright ownership and publication including any claim for compensation related to use of the materials.

- YES, I do give permission
- NO, I do not give permission



VIII. SCREENING QUESTIONS-Part A

Do you currently hold a valid Driver's License?	YES	NO
Do you have current vehicle liability insurance?	YES	NO
Do you intend to use your personal vehicle for 4-H Volunteer work, including personal transportation to and from 4-H events?	YES	NO
Have you ever had a background screening prior to now?	YES	NO

VIII. SCREENING QUESTIONS-Part B

*Have you been subject to investigation in connection to, charged with or convicted of crimes that are considered violent crimes under Ohio law, including but not limited to:				YES	NO
abduction,	arson,	assault,	battery,		
burglary,	child abuse,	domestic violence,	endangering children,		
escape,	extortion,	improperly discharging firearm,	inciting to violence,		
intimidation,	gross sexual imposition,	human trafficking,	inducing panic,		
kidnapping,	menacing,	manslaughter,	murder,		
patient abuse,	rape,	robbery,	resisting arrest with violence,		
riot,	sexual battery,	stalking,	terrorism.		
I understand that if I have questions on if I should disclose charges I will reach out to my county 4-H professional.				YES	NO

*If Yes, please provide the information below:

Full Name and any other known aliases (e.g. maiden name): _____

The name of the investigating agency/county office that was involved: _____

The Charge(s)/Offense(s): _____

Court: _____ (i.e. Franklin County Common Pleas Court)

Case No: _____ Date of Conviction: _____



*Has any member of your current household been subject to investigation in connection to, charged with or convicted of crimes that are considered violent crimes under Ohio law, including but not limited to:				YES	NO
abduction,	arson,	assault,	battery,		
burglary,	child abuse,	domestic violence,	endangering children,		
escape,	extortion,	improperly discharging firearm,	inciting to violence,		
intimidation,	gross sexual imposition,	human trafficking,	inducing panic,		
kidnapping,	menacing,	manslaughter,	murder,		
patient abuse,	rape,	robbery,	resisting arrest with violence,		
riot,	sexual battery,	stalking,	terrorism.		
I understand that if I have questions on if I should disclose charges I will reach out to my county 4-H professional.					

*If Yes, please provide the information below:

Name of Individual: _____
 This individual's relationship to the volunteer applicant _____
 The name of the investigating agency/county office that was involved: _____
 The Charge(s)/Offense(s): _____
 Court: _____ (i.e. Franklin County Common Pleas Court)
 Case No: _____ Date of Conviction: _____

I understand that being a volunteer with 4-H is not guaranteed and may depend upon successful completion of the background check and the information disclosed in this form.	YES	NO
I understand that failure to disclose may result in an automatic disqualification or termination of my status as a 4-H volunteer.	YES	NO

IX. WAIVER

Volunteer Waiver, Release, Hold Harmless, and Indemnification Agreement

I hereby apply to participate as a volunteer in programs conducted in cooperation with Ohio State University Extension of the Ohio State University, and I acknowledge as follows: I fully understand and acknowledge that there are inherent risks and dangers in my participation in volunteer activities and my participation in said activities and use of any equipment or materials related to such activities and my participation may result in injury or illness and/or damage to my personal property. I understand other participants, accidents, forces of nature or other causes may cause these risks and I hereby accept these risks.

In consideration of such acknowledgment, I/we do hereby agree to release, discharge, and hold harmless Ohio State University Extension, The Ohio State University, its trustees, officers, agents, and employees of and from all causes, liabilities, damages, claims, or demands whatsoever on account of any injury or accident arising out of my participation as a volunteer in Ohio 4-H Youth Development program throughout the dates of my volunteer service.

I have read this release before signing below, and I fully understand the contents, meaning, and impact of this release. I understand that I am free to address any specific questions regarding this release by submitting those questions prior to signing, and I agree that my failure to do so will be interpreted as a complete acceptance of the terms of this release.

Applicant Signature: _____

Date: _____



VOLUNTEER STANDARDS OF BEHAVIOR

These Standards of Behavior are accepted by volunteers who commit to an Ohio State University Extension (“OSUE” or “Extension”) program as a condition of their volunteer status. The Standards of Behavior shall guide volunteer’s behavior during their involvement in Extension programs. Just as it is a privilege for Ohio State University to work with individuals who volunteer their time and energies to the organization, a volunteer’s involvement with OSUE is a privilege and a responsibility, not a right.

OSUE provides quality educational programs accessible to all Ohio citizens. The primary purpose of this Standard of Behavior is to ensure the safety and well-being of all Extension program participants (i.e., members, their parents and families, professionals, and volunteers). Volunteers are expected to function within the guidelines of OSUE and the individual program area (4-H, Agricultural & Natural Resources, Family & Consumer Sciences, and Community Development). Extension volunteers shall act with personal integrity.

Ohio State University Extension volunteers will:

- Uphold volunteerism as an effective way to meet the needs of youth and adults.
- Uphold each individual’s right to dignity, self-development, and self-direction.
- Accept supervision and support from professional Extension staff while involved in the program.
- Accept the responsibility to professionally represent the activity/program and The Ohio State University. Conduct themselves in a courteous and respectful manner, exhibit good sportsmanship, and provide positive role models for all youth.
- Respect, adhere to, and enforce the rules, policies, and guidelines established by their individual county Extension program and The Ohio State University.
- Not engage in abusive behaviors that physically or verbally threaten or harm anyone participating in or attending an Extension program, including youth.
- Not possess or consume intoxicating substances including drugs or alcohol while responsible for the care, custody or control of 4-H participants.
- Refrain from engaging in any criminal conduct. Comply with all applicable civil rights laws and policies, including but not limited to Ohio State equal opportunity, nondiscrimination policies, social media, and program participant policy.
- Perform duties in a responsible and timely manner as outlined in the position description.
- Immediately report any threats to the volunteer’s emotional or physical well-being to the county Extension professional.
- Accept the responsibility to promote and support Extension programs in order to develop an effective county, state, and national program.
- Handle animals and operate machinery, vehicles, and other equipment in a responsible manner.
- Do their best to help youth thrive while exploring their ‘sparks’.
- Read and uphold the Youth Privacy Principles located at go.osu.edu/youthprivacy

I understand and agree that as a volunteer:

- I understand that I have an ongoing obligation to self-disclose to OSUE within three business days if I am indicted, pled guilty and/or are convicted of a crime which constitutes an offense of violence under Ohio law (Ohio Revised Code §2901.01(a)(9)).
 - If I have been background checked and have had a break of service for less than 12 months, I will disclose any convictions that occurred during the break within three business days of commencement of participation in youth activities and programs. If the break in service is longer than 12 months, I must be background checked again.
- I will follow Ohio State University Institutional Data Policy, which specifies requirements for protecting institutional data, including but not limited to 4-H member and volunteer personal data.
- I will report any red-flag behaviors, child abuse, sexual abuse, or neglect in accordance with university policy.
- I will not intentionally or purposefully place myself in a position alone with a member of a vulnerable population, in a one-on-one situation, including, but not limited to sleeping quarters with participants.
- I will not, under any circumstances, physically, verbally, or emotionally abuse or fail to provide the basic necessities of care, such as food or shelter to participants.
- I will endeavor to provide a safe and healthy program/camp experience for all participants.
- My volunteer status is subject to immediate suspension or termination based on any act or omission that Extension determines to be contrary to any portion of these standards or otherwise in conflict with the goals of OSUE at the OSUE’s sole discretion.

I have read, understand, and agree to be bound by the **VOLUNTEER STANDARDS OF BEHAVIOR** outlined above.

Volunteer Signature

Date



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION



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