**New York FFA Code of Conduct**

New York FFA is proud to offer experiences and resources for student and adult participation. As a school-based organization with strong commitments to youth, community, agriculture and personal growth; all participants, volunteers and leaders are expected to abide by New York FFA’s Code of Conduct. Our Code of Conduct asks all participants to exhibit the values of Respect, Professionalism and Safety.

* **Respect**
	+ Student and adult participants in FFA events treat people, experiences, facilities and belongings with respect in order to foster an environment and a reputation that are welcoming and positive.
		- Prioritize generosity, curiosity, honesty and fairness when building relationships and learning from others. FFA leaders approach differences with respect and find common ground and shared solutions. All FFA leaders abstain from bullying, harassment or discrimination and discourage/report known harassment to adult staff.
		- Communicate in appropriate, purposeful and positive manners through interpersonal, professional and social media/online interactions. In person or behind a screen, FFA leaders communicate with respect, proactively and directly.
		- Treat other participants, staff and bystanders with courtesy at all times. Take care to respect the rights of others and their property. Be mindful of the volume of your voice and the size of the group and make an effort not to be distracting or disruptive to neighboring individuals or events. FFA members should observe curfews and quiet hours at hotels even if not mandated by the hotel itself.
		- Demonstrate good sportsmanship by being modest in winning and generous in defeat. Express gratitude for opportunities and treat volunteers and hosts with high esteem.
		- Participate fully in experiences and adhere to posted rules or requests made by chaperones and event leadership. Avoid using phones or having side-conversations during sessions or activities and support the ability of other participants to get the most out of their FFA experience.
* **Professionalism**
	+ FFA experiences support the development of premier leadership, personal growth and career success. Professionalism is a key way we assure quality, elevate our organization’s culture and assure all participants are set up for success.
		- Dress appropriately for the occasion. Many FFA events require FFA official dress but it is not the appropriate attire for every activity. Many events have active components that may make dresses or dress attire prohibitive to success. All students and adults should dress for both the setting and the activity and are encouraged to look for dress codes within event guidelines. In casual settings, participant attire should allow for full participation and any clothing logos or slogans must be respectful and age-appropriate for all participants. Guidelines for official dress can be found at ffa.org.
			* New chapters that have not yet had time to order jackets may choose to borrow jackets or dress in business professional attire at events during their first year as a chapter. State Staff can work with judges to assure students are not penalized for the inability for ffa.org to produce jackets in time with a new chapter.
		- Take responsibility for personal success. Plan travel to be on time, prepare for experiences and take ownership of mistakes and consequences. Adults should participate in available orientations or information sessions that allow you to be a more effective judge or program leader. Participants with needs for accommodation should communicate dietary restrictions, IEPs or other requests with State Staff at least two weeks prior to an event (earlier if indicated by competition rules) to support the delivery of accommodations.
		- Seek continuous improvement through engagement in programming and pursuit of future opportunities for growth. Ask for help when needed and approach feedback with a growth mindset. Help New York FFA continue to improve by providing constructive feedback when relevant.
* **Safety**
	+ FFA experiences provide hands-on, active opportunities for student participation. The type and frequency of these events requires not only individual event safety expectations, but the commitment to safe behavior by every participant.
		- Abide by posted safety requirements of facilities, experiences, or events. Adhere to conference rules and assignments related to schedules, meals, rooming and transportation.
			* Students are not permitted to use or possess weapons, drugs, alcohol, tobacco or nicotine products (vapes, etc) at any FFA event.
		- Make good choices about personal actions. Avoid bringing unnecessary valuables or excessive personal items to events to reduce the chances of loss or damage. Report injury, illness or other concern to conference leadership for support and any appropriate action.
		- In travel, all travelers should reduce distractions for themselves and the driver of their vehicles.
			* General student participants are discouraged from driving themselves to school events. Student travelers should work with their school district to identify the appropriate expectations for individual travel. (State Officers and collegiate volunteers fall under a separate category of participant and will have separate travel expectations.)

\*The New York FFA Code of Conduct was developed in partnership with students and FFA leadership and adopted by the delegates at the 2023 State FFA Convention. By request of students and advisors, the Code of Conduct will continue to be updated and information on response to violations of the code of conduct will continue to be developed and made available to FFA advisors.