1. 4-H Youth Development programs at all levels are conducted under the authority of Cooperative Extension and the United States Department of Agriculture
   a. Local & County level 4-H Youth Development programs and 4-H Youth Development volunteers are accountable to the County UW-Extension professionals responsible for 4-H Youth Development programs
   b. 4-H Youth Development groups/clubs and volunteers operate under the guidance and control of Cooperative Extension
   c. Use of the 4-H name and emblem is protected by law, and controlled by Cooperative Extension

2. 4-H Youth Development programs must comply with University and National 4-H policies, and state and federal law

3. 4-H Youth Development’s principle outcome is positive youth development
   a. Programs should provide appropriate challenge and risk – while making safety a priority
   b. Everyone can succeed in 4-H – support should be available to promote success
   c. Young people should be encouraged to make their own decisions in 4-H Youth Development, both individually and collectively, and should be allowed to sometimes fail, within an environment of safety and support
   d. 4-H Youth Development is flexible enough to accommodate many different needs & interests
   e. 4-H Youth Development values academic achievement and problem prevention, but those are not the primary objectives of our programs
   f. 4-H Youth Development values and encourages the involvement of parents with their children
   g. 4-H Youth Development delivers programs through a variety of methods and groups

4. 4-H Youth Development programs are public
   a. Programs are intended to advance the public good
   b. Programs and activities are open to all
   c. Programs and activities should be visible to the public
   d. Program participation should not be limited to family activities
   e. 4-H Youth Development provides opportunities for youth to have experiences beyond their family, and to interact with caring adults who are not family

5. 4-H Youth Development respects and encourages youth voice
   a. Youth and adults work as partners
   b. Young people have rights
   c. Young people should be treated with dignity

6. 4-H Youth Development programs and groups are inclusive
   a. Policies, practices, and images that limit participation must be avoided
   b. Programs and activities should promote a sense of "belonging" for all
   c. 4-H Youth Development programs and activities should strive to always provide a welcoming and respectful environment
   d. 4-H Youth Development does not exclude children whose parents are not involved
7. Serving as a 4-H Youth Development volunteer is a privilege, not a right
   a. Persons wishing to become or continue as a volunteer leader must comply with Wisconsin 4-H Youth Development Volunteer Behavior Expectations
   b. Cooperative Extension has the authority to decide whether or not a person is suitable to serve as a 4-H Youth Development volunteer
   c. Cooperative Extension has the authority to discipline or remove volunteers

8. 4-H Youth Development programs for youth are delivered primarily through volunteers
   a. Paid staff develop and manage a system where volunteers work with youth
   b. Paid staff rarely lead or advise youth groups or clubs on a continuing basis
   c. New programs should be designed to be led by volunteers
   d. 4-H Youth Development provides volunteers with opportunities for personal growth and satisfaction

9. 4-H Youth Development programs are non-formal, primarily offered during out-of-school time
   a. 4-H Youth Development partners with schools, but is not a substitute for them
   b. 4-H Youth Development employees are not classroom workers or school teachers

10. Local decision making within 4-H Youth Development is important and preferred
    a. Youth should be involved in decisions affecting them
    b. Respectful, fair, and open decision making processes should be used
    c. Cooperative Extension has ultimate responsibility and authority

Greg Hutchins
State Program Director
4-H Youth Development
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