



I recognize that the COVID-19 pandemic has significantly impacted delivery of 4-H youth development experiences across the state and nation. I pledge to make the safety, health, and well-being of 4-H members, families, volunteers, and supporters my first priority as I conduct duties and activities as a UME/4-H Volunteer. I hereby represent, declare, and agree as follows:

1. I agree to follow the policies, directives, and protocols of the Maryland 4-H program regarding operation of 4-H activities in the COVID-19 environment, including:
  - Conducting 4-H activities using virtual or distance learning methods instead of in-person contact, whenever possible
  - Completing required training prior to leading, hosting, or participating in an in-person 4-H activity
  - Following procedures to plan, request, secure approval for, conduct, and report in-person 4-H activities
  - Adhering to group size and management requirements
  - Implementing and enforcing required hygiene, safety, and conduct protocols for 4-H activities
  - Collecting and submitting participant Health Pledge forms, according to directions
  - Providing information for health-related reporting, as directed
  - Maintaining communication with the local 4-H program
  - Staying informed of and following changes or modifications to these 4-H policies, directives, and protocols
2. I understand that these conditions and requirements are additional to the UME/4-H Volunteer Agreement and the terms of my Volunteer Position Description(s). I acknowledge that these policies, directives and protocols will change and evolve as the COVID-19 environment changes, and that it is my responsibility to stay informed of their current status. I understand 4-H requirements may be more stringent than orders of federal, state, or local governments, and I agree to follow the directives of the State 4-H Program Leader and local 4-H program. I understand these conditions and requirements will remain in effect until rescinded by the State 4-H Program Leader.
3. I acknowledge and understand that 4-H activities and programs may continue to be conducted virtually or via distance learning.
4. I agree to follow Maryland 4-H policies, directives, guidelines, and protocols when conducting virtual programming, with special consideration to parental consent for recording and/or publicly posting video of minors.
5. I understand that, if I choose to host a 4-H activity on my privately-owned property, I assume full risk and liability for the activity. I agree to follow and enforce all Maryland 4-H policies, directives and protocols pertaining to 4-H activities held on my property, including but not limited to planning, approval, screening, hygiene, sanitation, conduct, and reporting requirements. I acknowledge that any 4-H activity held on my property may not be covered by any insurance policy held by a UME/4-H entity, and I may be fully responsible for any claim or legal action that may result. I further acknowledge that, by choosing to hold a 4-H activity on my property, I may increase the chance of COVID-19 transmission to myself or my family.
6. I acknowledge that holding or participating in in-person 4-H activities may increase my risk of exposure to COVID-19. I understand that I am not required to hold or participate in in-person 4-H activities, and that I may decline to do so. If I am considered an "at-risk" population for COVID-19 due to age, compromised immunity, medical condition, or other factors, I understand that I am



**MARYLAND 4-H VOLUNTEER  
LIABILITY RELEASE & INFORMED CONSENT AGREEMENT  
OPERATIONS IN COVID-19 ENVIRONMENT**

discouraged from holding or participating in in-person 4-H activities, and that if I choose to do so I voluntarily assume the associated enhanced risk.

7. Knowing the dangers, hazards and risks associated with in-person 4-H activities at this time, and with sufficient knowledge of my physical condition(s) and limitations, I voluntarily assume all responsibility and risk of illness, injury, loss and/or damage to person or property in any way proximately caused by me or my actions associated with my leadership of or participation in 4-H activities.
8. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I hereby release and forever discharge, and agree not to sue and to indemnify and hold harmless, the State of Maryland, the University of Maryland, University of Maryland Extension and their governing boards, officers, agents, employees and volunteers from and against any and all liabilities, claims, demands and causes of action of any kind on account of any illness, injury, loss or damage to person or property in any way proximately caused by me or proximately relating to my conduct or participation in 4-H activities, whether due to the negligence, mistake or other action or inaction of UME or any other person or entity.

**I HAVE READ AND FULLY UNDERSTAND THIS LIABILITY RELEASE AND INFORMED CONSENT FORM, AND I AGREE TO ITS TERMS VOLUNTARILY AND WITH FULL KNOWLEDGE OF ITS SIGNIFICANCE. I UNDERSTAND THAT AGREEMENT TO THESE TERMS IS REQUIRED FOR MY RETURN TO PERFORMANCE OF IN-PERSON DUTIES AS A CERTIFIED UME/4-H VOLUNTEER. IF I CHOOSE NOT TO AGREE TO THESE TERMS, I WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO LEAD, HOST OR PARTICIPATE IN IN-PERSON 4-H ACTIVITIES UNTIL ALL OPERATIONAL RESTRICTIONS RELATED TO COVID-19 ARE LIFTED.**

---

Printed Name of Volunteer

---

Volunteer's Signature

---

Date