



ONTARIO HORTICULTURAL ASSOCIATION
YOUTH LEADER CODE OF CONDUCT

Keeping Ontario Beautiful

As a volunteer Youth Leader in an Ontario Horticultural Society Youth program, I am expected to:

- 1. Ensure the safety, health and well-being of all child, youth or vulnerable program members.**
 - a. I will adhere to all legal and organizational health and safety requirements.
 - b. I will comply with all volunteer screening policies and will report to my horticultural society president and the OHA Youth Committee Chair any necessary changes or breaches to such policies.
 - c. I will behave in such a way as to avoid any unnecessary risk to the safety, health and well-being of myself and others.
 - d. I will consider risk management implications in all youth program activities.

- 2. Ensure that my personal conduct is, and is seen to be, of the highest standards.**
 - a. I will treat all people fairly and with respect and dignity.
 - b. I will not use alcohol or drugs during or before any youth program activities.
 - c. I will not use vulgar or inappropriate language in front of youth.
 - d. I will only touch a youth on the hands, arms, shoulders or head, except when a medical or activity safety circumstances warrant, and always with permission of the youth member, and always in sight of others. I will respect the right to personal privacy at all times.
 - i. I will not smoke in front of youth.
 - ii. I will never be alone with a child or youth unless safety dictates otherwise.
 - iii. If a child/youth/vulnerable wants to speak privately with me, I will ensure that the discussion is not out of sight from others, just out of hearing.
 - iv. I will not use my role as a youth leader to have contact with youth participants outside of the youth program.
 - v. I will connect with youth participants using technology and social media only for the purposes of the youth program and also copying another adult such as a parent or another youth leader.

- 3. Avoid involvement in any criminal activities, activities that contravene human rights or those that compromise the youth program.**
 - a. I will contribute to combating all forms of illegal activities against children and youth.
 - b. I will notify my horticultural society president and OHA Youth Committee Chair of any unspent criminal convictions or charges prior to registering.
 - c. I will also notify my Horticultural Society President and OHA Youth Committee Chair if I face any new criminal charges during my time as a volunteer or staff.
 - d. I will not engage in sexual behaviour of any kind with children or youth/vulnerable persons; this includes sexual jokes, language, names, touching, pornography, and exploitation.
 - e. I will not use technology or social media to engage youth in disrespectful and exploitative behaviour.

Youth Leader Name (please print)

Youth Leader Signature

Horticultural Society Name (please print)

Date