

## OAAS Volunteers & Youth Policies and Procedures



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<b>Policy Title:</b>	Volunteer – Youth General Policies and Procedures	
<b>Adopted:</b>	October 22, 2016	
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The Ontario Association of Agricultural Societies (OAAS) is passionate and committed to ensuring the delivery of safe and educational youth programs through activities delivered at the provincial and district levels.

The OAAS will strive to ensure the safety, health and well-being of all youth involved in the programs by:

- Considering risks management implications in all youth program activities
- Adhering to all organization goals, responsibilities, and missions during programming
- Behaving in a way that will avoid any unnecessary risk to the safety, health, and well-being of all involved.
- Treating all people involved in an agricultural society and courteous manner with respect and dignity
- Acknowledging the zero tolerance for alcohol or drugs during any youth program activities
- Recognizing the use of vulgar or inappropriate language is not acceptable
- Understanding that a volunteer and youth should never be alone together unless safety dictates otherwise. If there is a need to speak privately to a youth, ensure the discussion is not out of sight from others, just out of hearing
- Communicating with any youth participants using technology and social media is only for the purpose of the program and copying another adult such as a parent or another adult volunteer is encouraged.
- Emotional, physical, verbal, mental or sexual abuse of any individual participating/attending an OAAS event/activity will not be tolerated
- Any acts of discrimination and/or harassment of the basis of race, nationality or ethnic origin, colour, age, religion, family status, sexuality or disability is unacceptable.
- Maintaining privacy of youth is important. Respect will be given to the confidential nature of information received regarding youth involved in OAAS programming, events and/or activities.

All youth participating in OAAS related programming will be required to review with their parent/ guardian and sign a Participant Code of Conduct acknowledging their understanding of their expectations according to the OAAS.