

Frequently Asked Questions:  
Chaperone Age in the CA 4-H Youth Development Program

*The minimum chaperone age for the 4-H YDP is 21 years old.*

**Q. Who is considered a chaperone in the 4-H Youth Development Program?**

Answer: A chaperone is an adult 4-H volunteer at least 21 years of age. He or she has the responsibility of a delegation of youth at a 4-H event or activity. The event usually involves duration of more than 24 hours with an overnight stay, and often involves travel.

**Q. What is the appropriate ratio for youth/adult chaperones?**

Answer: The appropriate ratio for youth/adults in any given event is different. Statewide policy states that there must be at least one adult for every 10 youth participants in general activities or outings. However, some events may need a higher number of chaperones, depending on the participants and the nature of the event. Each UCCE county office must determine the appropriate ratio as it relates to the event. **The appropriate ratio for 4-H Summer Camp is one adult for every 8 youth participants.**

**Q. What about young adults who do not have the maturity to handle chaperone responsibilities?**

Answer: Any chaperone (of any age) should be selected carefully according to the particular requirements of the event or activity. Chaperones should be selected according to how well they fit the position description for the event/activity. Sample position descriptions are available at <http://www.ca4h.org/4hresource/handbook/appendices/index.asp>. UCCE county offices must use appropriate judgment to determine if individuals are capable and competent and will add to the quality of the 4-H Youth Development Program.