

Guidelines for Cell Phone Use at Georgia 4-H Events

While the rules governing the use of cell phones at 4-H events allows for greater access to phones at the different stages of youth development, Georgia 4-H **strongly discourages** the use of cell phones and other electronic devices at all camps and events. Georgia 4-H and the 4-H Centers also assume no responsibility for lost, stolen or damaged cell phones or other personal electronic devices that are brought to 4-H events. Some competitive 4-H events or some individual counties may have more stringent policies regarding the use of cell phones. Cell phones may not be used during competitions. Keep in mind, if cell phone use is determined to be involved in a violation of the Georgia 4-H Code of Conduct, appropriate disciplinary action will be taken.

Cloverleaf Level (4th-6th Graders)

Cloverleaf level (4th-6th Grade) 4-H'ers are strongly discouraged from bringing cell phones and other electronic devices to 4-H events and camp. If brought, cell phones and other devices must be left in the cabin during scheduled activities and put away at lights out. Cell phones may be confiscated and returned at the end of the event if their possession or use is determined to be disruptive to camp or event activities.

Junior Level (7th-8th Graders)

Junior level (7th-8th Grade) 4-H'ers may bring cell phones to 4-H events and camps, and the phones may remain in their possession, but must be put away during scheduled activities and at lights out. Cell phones may be confiscated and returned at the end of the event if their possession or use, such as sending or receiving calls or text messages or using head phones, is determined to be disruptive to the event experience.

Senior Level (9th-12th Graders)

Senior level (9th-12th) may bring cell phones to 4-H events and camps, and the phones may remain in their possession, but must be put away at lights out. Cell phones may be confiscated and returned at the end of the event if their possession or use, such as sending or receiving calls or text messages or using head phones during scheduled activities, is determined to be disruptive to the event experience.

Adult and Teen Leaders

To set the best example, adult and teen leaders should limit their use of cell phones – particularly in the presence of participants or campers – to legitimate business purposes.

For more information, contact your local UGA Extension office at 1-800-ASK-UGA1.

The University of Georgia 4-H program is the largest youth leadership organization in the state.