



Dating Etiquette

Compiled by Marilyn Poole and Cheryl Varnadoe

BASIC GUIDELINES:

- Show Respect – Courteous manners speak volumes about your attitudes toward the people you go out with and your own self-respect.
- Communicate – Participate in the conversation to make it easy to flow and be natural.
- Be Realistic- There is no perfect person. Be accepting of others.
- Treat people as individuals – All ladies are not alike, and all gentlemen are not alike.
- Be gracious – Say thank you for the date and a nice evening.

WHO PAYS:

- For the first date, the person who asks for the date should pay, unless both parties agree in advance to share expenses. Example: If John asks Elizabeth out on a date, John signals his intent to pay.
- If after dinner, Elizabeth suggests going to a movie or a concert, then it's courteous for Elizabeth to offer to pay for that or split the costs.
- When a date "just happens" and wasn't planned or asked, it's reasonable to share costs.
- Always be prepared by taking cash. Elizabeth can offer to pay to cover her share, but shouldn't make an issue.
- When going out to eat on a date, a lady should follow the lead of her date on what to order. Example: if the guy is ordering a hamburger, do not order an expensive steak. Try to be respectful of cost and stay in the same price range of your date.
- If a couple is out with other friends, it is acceptable for the lady to pay for her own meal or movie ticket.

DATING ETIQUETTE:

- Be on Time. When your date is picking you up, be ready on time or a little early.
- When a gentleman picks up a lady at her house, he needs to come to the front door and ring the doorbell. The lady should answer the door and introduce her date to her parents.
- After a quick introduction, shake hands with them and speak politely for a few minutes. Then, it is appropriate to leave after stating, it is nice to meet you, Mr. and Mrs. Smith.
- Gentlemen should not drive up to the lady's house, honk the horn, and expect your date to come out.

- When walking on the sidewalk, the gentleman should walk on the outside of the street.
- A gentleman should open doors for a lady, including the car door.
- A gentleman should pull out a chair for a lady at the table. If the lady goes to the restroom, he should stand when she gets up and also when she returns to the table.
- A lady should thank the gentleman for the date. It's fine for both to say they enjoyed the evening and had a great time.

INVITATIONS TO PARTIES:

- When you receive an invitation to a party, it will probably say RSVP. Always reply or respond to say if you will or will not be attending. This will help the hostess know how many people to expect.
- Always show up for a party of which you accept an invitation. If something comes up and you can't make it, let the host or hostess know ahead of time.
- Always thank the hostess for the invitation to the party.
- It is a nice gesture to take a small gift to a hostess.
- If you spend the night at someone's home, it is also polite to write a thank you note to the hostess.

COMPILED and WRITTEN by: Mandy Marable, State 4-H Staff
 Casey Mull, State 4-H Staff
 Marilyn Poole, UGA Senior Public Service Associate
 Cheryl Varnadoe, State 4-H Staff
 Special thanks to Amanda Stephens, State 4-H Program Specialist, and Will Walker

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PEER REVIEWED by:

Dr. Janet Fox, Louisiana State University Extension, LSU State 4-H Staff.
 Dr. Lori Gallimore, University of Tennessee Extension, Tennessee State 4-H Staff.



Beverly Sparks
 Associate Dean for Extension



Arch D. Smith
 State 4-H Leader/Director of 4-H

J. Scott Angle, Dean and Director, College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences

Group Curriculum #3GC3

Spring 2014

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