

CODE OF ETHICS

FOR PEER PROGRAM MEMBERS

*A code of ethics is an agreement among individuals
as to the norms which shall guide their behavior.*

The California Association of Peer Programs recommends the following code of ethics as a minimum standard of behavior for peer program members:

- Peer program members adhere to a philosophy, which upholds peer programs as an effective way to address the needs and conditions of people.
- Peer program members commit to training and supervision from professional staff members while involved in the peer program.
- Peer program members recognize and accept the boundaries of their competence and training and seek support from a peer program staff member whenever they encounter problems beyond those limits.
- Peer program members preserve the confidential nature of the peer program member / student being served relationship which is essential for effective peer program service. Peer program members also understand that certain exceptions to confidentiality must be referred immediately to professional staff members. These include situations, which involve real or potential danger to the safety or well being of the peer program member, student being served, or others; child abuse, sexual abuse, and other situations, which involve legal requirements of disclosure.
- Peer program members recognize situations that involve a potential conflict of interest and avoid such conflicts in peer program activities.
- Peer program members learn and practice self-care behaviors, which protect their emotional and physical health.
- Peer program members exhibit personal behavior that demonstrates respect for each individual's right to dignity, self-development, and self-direction.
- Peer program members strive to develop nurturing personalities and healthy life styles; serve as positive role models; reject the pursuit of personal power, elitist status, or gain at the expense of others; and strive to exemplify the peer program philosophy in all life situations.