The Cornell Cooperative Extension Association Volunteer Involvement Policy (VIP) established the association volunteer relationship and outlines the procedures most critical for a volunteer experience that is productive for the individual and the organization.

A central feature of the VIP is the identification of three categories of volunteers: casual, enrolled, and elected board members. As of March 31, 2013, all CCE Association volunteers who are casual or enrolled who volunteer for more than one calendar day per year are required to undergo background checks. [Elected board members are encouraged to set local policy requiring background checks for elected board members.] Enrolled volunteers who serve in higher risk, longer term positions or potentially unsupervised settings are required to complete an application, reference check, interview, background check, and sign a volunteer agreement.

Members of Boards of Directors are governed by the rules set forth in N.Y. County Law 224 (8)(b), the Association Constitution, and Cornell University.

To be permitted to serve the CCE association volunteers all individuals (except board members who have legally-defined governance responsibilities filling only that Elected Volunteer role) must provide service according to the VIP. Local association constitution operating procedures may have additional requirements for board members including screening and signing the Volunteer Agreement. Elected volunteer board members who participate in any other volunteer role in the organization must adhere to the standards prescribed in the VIP under the appropriate volunteer category. For example, a board member who is also a 4-H club leader will follow Enrolled Volunteer policies.

An association board is encouraged to adopt a local policy requiring board members to undergo background checks and sign the volunteer agreement. Since the Board of Directors supervises staff through the executive director, the following provision of the VIP should not apply to board members when engaged in their governance responsibilities:

Accept supervision and support from professional Extension staff and/or supervisory volunteers.

Cornell Cooperative Extension provides equal program and employment opportunities.