

Overview of the 4-H Safety Project



Participants in the 4-H Safety Project learn to prevent accidents and injuries by recognizing and correcting safety hazards. This activity can be a stand-alone project or a component of various other 4-H projects.

Project work can relate to safe equipment designs and procedures for preventing injuries in the home, at work, or in recreational environments. Topics might include animals, boating, chemicals, electricity, falls, farm or yard machinery, fire, hunting, natural disasters, traffic safety, or workplace equipment.

Safety projects are usually conducted throughout the 4-H year, based on the availability of leaders. 4-H members interested in the safety project should be willing to commit the appropriate amount of time to it, depending on the level of involvement.

Because competition is limited to 4-H educational presentation and recordbook competitions, the 4-H members can focus more on the learning process and the many opportunities for community service.

This project may overlap with other projects, such as health, family life, and housing and home environment.

Questions to ask

- What are your goals?
- Do you want to compete in any safety project contests?
- If so, would you like to compete with a team of other 4-H members or as an individual?
- What other projects are you involved in that you can incorporate into your safety project?

Learning experiences

Workshops

- ATV safety
- Bicycle safety
- Boating safety
- Chemical safety
- Child passenger safety
- Elder driving safety
- Fall prevention
- Farm equipment safety
- Fire safety
- Gun safety
- Kick scooter safety
- Pedestrian safety
- Personal safety
- School bus safety
- Snake safety
- Sun safety
- Teen driver safety
- Tractor safety
- Water safety
- Weather safety

Tours

- Business that makes or sells safety equipment
- Fire station
- Tour homes to identify safety hazards

Community service

- Collect smoke alarms for families in need
- Coordinate a bicycle rodeo
- Distribute literature on home fire drills
- Help at a child safety seat check-up event
- Help coordinate a farm safety day camp
- Help older and/or disabled citizens with accident prevention in the home (cleanup, modifications, etc.)
- Help secure the rollover convincer and help with a demonstration at a school
- Make a safety presentation to community groups
- Place exhibit at a local store on the safe storage and use of household chemicals
- Promote accident prevention with farm equipment
- Promote accident prevention with livestock
- Serve on a safety council and/or committees

Careers

- American Red Cross
- Emergency management coordinator
- EMS
- Environmental safety
- Firefighter
- Law enforcement officer
- Meteorologist
- Occupational Safety and Health Administration
- Traffic safety engineer

Contests

Contests are summarized on individual Essentials pages.

- Educational presentations: Safety and injury prevention
- Recordbook: Safety

Resources

- Agricultural Safety and Health: <http://agsafety.tamu.edu/>
- AgriLife Extension resources: fcs.tamu.edu
 - Child Safety Seats
 - Road Wise: A Complete Traffic Safety Program Toolkit
 - Smart Driving
 - Teen Traffic Safety Project Guide
 - Youth Traffic Safety
- ATV Safety Institute: <http://www.atvsafety.org/>
- Extension Disaster Education Network: www.texashelp.tamu.edu/
- Hunter Education: http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/learning/hunter_education/
- MADD: <http://www.madd.org/>
- National Ag Safety Database: <http://www.nasdonline.org/index.html>
- Personal Safety: <http://ncpc.org>
- Pesticide Safety Program: <http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/safety/>
- Teens in the Driver Seat: www.t-driver.com
- Traffic Safety: <http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/>

Specialists

- **Safety and accident prevention educational presentation:** Myrna Hill, Extension Program Specialist–Passenger Safety, mrhill@ag.tamu.edu, 979-862-1782
- **Recordbooks**
 - **First point of contact:** Your district 4-H specialist
 - **Coordinator of the state judging process:** Darlene Locke, Extension 4-H Youth Development Specialist, dlocke@ag.tamu.edu, 979-845-6533
- **Farm safety day camp:** Susan Reynolds, Executive Director–Programs, Progressive Agriculture Foundation, farmsafetyday@aol.com, 888-257-3529
- **Teen rollover convincer:** Myrna Hill and Bev Kellner, Extension Program Specialists–Passenger Safety, bkellner@ag.tamu.edu, 979-862-1782