

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

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

Tours

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

Community service

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

Careers

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

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