

## **Program Safety Regulations (updated 1/04)**

Adults and youth participating in all high risk programs, including horses, ATV, bicycle, rock climbing/repelling, rollerblading, and ropes adventure courses must wear protective clothing, head and foot gear. Minimum requirements for these programs:

- 1. Protective head gear (SEI approved for the specific activity) which properly fits the participant.**
- 2. Shoes or boots which provide protection from the hazards of said program.**
- 3. Clothing appropriate for the activity which will protect the participants from the elements surrounding the event.**

The policy means that all 4-H members and leaders (adult or youth) participating in the mentioned projects and /or activities need to use protective or safety equipment while participating. Approved safety helmets need to be worn while mounted or driving a horse, operating a bicycle or ATV, on roller blades, rock climbing or doing a challenge course.

If a 4-H club is listed as a sponsor or co-sponsor of an activity which includes the above listed projects, the helmet and safety equipment requirement applies for all participants. This includes adults as they need to be positive role models.

The goal of this policy is educational. We need to work for a safe environment for our youth. In the volunteer orientation program, the need for a safe environment is discussed. Therefore, if safety equipment which significantly reduces serious injuries is available, why would we not use it?

These standards apply to all 4-H activities, regardless of location. Meeting these standards may require the selection of an alternative site, or requiring the use of additional safety equipment, even though it is not standard practice for the facility where the 4-H activity is to occur. If these safety requirements are not followed, then the particular event is not eligible to use the 4-H name and emblem, nor will it be recognized as a part of the Extension program.

Should people decide not to comply, they need to be disqualified from the competition or asked to at least dismount, if during a non-competitive activity. When adults are serving in a leadership role, they are expected to meet the same safety requirements as the youth. If leaders fail to comply with the safety policy and individuals are participating without proper safety equipment and an injury occurs, the leader may be found negligent and application of liability insurance coverage would be questionable. This is a consequence which needs serious consideration.

Any classes which require 4-H membership to enter, or serves as a qualifying event for district or state competition must adhere to these safety policies.

It is strongly encouraged that 4-H groups set an example of using proper safety equipment and maintaining the highest standards of injury prevention.

**To exhibit animals at any public event as a 4-H member, youth must be in at least 3<sup>rd</sup> grade during the current 4-H year.**

This policy is for the safety of the 4-H member and the public at the public exhibition. The developmental ability and maturity level of the exhibitor, and the unpredictable behavior of animals should be considered prior to involving a 4-H member in the exhibition of animals.