



4-H Youth Horse Literacy

Introduction

The South Dakota 4-H program has a long history of promoting equine education. Youth participating in equine projects are encouraged to maximize their education by taking advantage of *many* learning opportunities throughout the year. To mitigate the higher risk associated with participating in equine projects, a minimum of one Youth Horse Literacy (YHL) certified event is required each program year for youth interested in exhibiting equine in a county horse show or the state horse show. (In 2022, YHL replaced the former Horse Safety Program with a more diverse slate of educational opportunities.)

Procedure [last updated March 1, 2024]

Here is a handy checklist SD4-H horse exhibitors will complete before the annual June 1 deadline:

- ☐ **Enroll** youth and projects in 4hOnline.
 - Upload **Horse** animal information and photographs.
 - Upload **Lease Form**, if applicable.
- ☐ Complete at least one **YHL** certified event. See menu of options on the next page.
 - If attending the event in your own 4-H county, be sure to sign in at registration.
 - If attending a YHL event out-of-county, you will receive a completion certificate that you can convey to your home 4-H county's Extension Office.

Special Note for 4-H State Horse Show Exhibitors

Additional requirements apply to participate in the State 4-H Horse Show.
Look to the South Dakota 4-H Horse Project Show Guide
(usually available around April 15) for these additional guidelines.

Special Note for 4-H Rodeo Exhibitors

Voluntary participation at a YHL event each year is strongly encouraged;
however, your annual safety obligations are met by attending the
mandatory on-site safety orientation at each 4-H rodeo you attend.





YHL Menu of Options

Choose one of these educational options to meet the annual YHL requirement

1. Attend a 4-H YHL certified event in county#; common examples include:
 - Horse specific clinic on vaccination, health, care, feeding, etc.
 - Horse specific workshop on elements of preparing for a show
 - Showmanship, grooming, bits, etc.
 - Must include at least one safety element
2. Attend a 4-H YHL event in another South Dakota 4-H county
3. Complete one approved online learning option (options listed below)
 - Horse Sense: Equine Youth Safety Course
 - Register at: <https://www.myhorseuniversity.com/youth-safety>
 - Watch program minimum of 1 hour of content; turn in a brief reflection paper of your learning
 - Complete Stay Safe Working with Horses Interactive Course
 - <https://innovativemedia.nmsu.edu/products/information/safewithhorses.html>
 - Complete the three (3) chapter; turn in a brief reflection paper of your learning
 - AQHLearn (some have a \$ fee)
 - <https://learn.aqhuniversity.com/collections>
 - Complete one (1) Level 2 or 3 course or two (2) Level 1 courses; turn in certificate(s)
4. Compete in the previous July's State 4-H Hippology Contest or other approved Hippology Contest
 - Critique and review of the answers is *strongly encouraged*.

#Counties currently experiencing a 4-H staffing vacancy will usually have fewer YHL options.

To learn about Youth Horse Literacy opportunities in your county and beyond, contact your local Extension/4-H Office.



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