



**SOUTH DAKOTA STATE  
UNIVERSITY EXTENSION**

# South Dakota 4-H Youth Horse Literacy Information Sheet



## 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 (Updated March 1, 2024)

Here is a handy checklist SD 4-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 YHL certified event. (See menu of options on 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 Notes

### 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.

### 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.



## Youth Horse Literacy Menu of Options

**Chose one of these educational options to meet the annual YHL requirement.**

1. Attend a 4-H YHL certified event in a county, common examples include:
  - Horse specific clinic on vaccination, health, care, feeding, etc
  - Horse specific workshop on element of preparing for a show
    - Showmanship, grooming, bits, etc.
    - Must include at least one safety element

*Counties currently experiencing a 4-H staffing vacancy will usually have fewer YHL options.*
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 you learning outcomes
  - Complete Stay Safe Working with Horse Interactive Course
    - View at: <https://innovativemedia.nmsu.edu/products/information/safewithhorses.html>
    - Complete the third (3) chapter and turn in a brief reflection paper of your learning
  - AQHLearn (some have a fee)
    - View at: <https://learn.aqhuniversity.com/collections>
    - Complete one (1) level 2 or 3 course or two (2) level 1 courses and 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

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

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