



4-H Youth Horse Literacy

Introduction

From the Horse Safety Program, workshops and competitions, the South Dakota 4-H program has a long history of promoting equine education. Though youth are encouraged to maximize their equine education by taking advantage of *many* learning opportunities, one Youth Horse Literacy (YHL) certified event is required each program year for youth interested in exhibiting horse in a county horse show or the state horse show. This program will replace the former Horse Safety Program. The YHL program will not only allow youth to ensure safe handling and minimize risk around horses, but also allow them to gain more comprehensive knowledge of their equine project.

Procedure [effective 2022-23 4-H program year]

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. Upon completion of event, you will receive a certificate.
 - If attending a YHL event out-of-county, you will convey completion certificate 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.





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:

- In-person instructor-led Horse Safety Workshop
 - Recommended for each exhibitor's first four years
- Horse specific clinic on vaccination, health, care, feeding, etc.
- Horse specific workshop on elements of preparing for a show
 - Showmanship
 - Grooming
 - Does need to include some safe skill elements

The counties without a 4-H Youth Program Advisor have fewer YHL options.

2. Attend a 4-H YHL event in another county

3. Complete Horse Sense: Equine Youth Safety Course

- Register at: <https://www.myhorseuniversity.com/youth-safety>
- Watch program minimum of 1 hour of content and write a paper

4. Complete Stay Safe Working with Horses Interactive Course

- <https://innovativemedia.nmsu.edu/products/information/safewithhorses.html>
- Complete the three (3) chapters and write a paper

5. Compete in the previous July's State 4-H Hippology Contest or other approved Hippology Contest

- State Contest option will begin for the following 4-H year (2023-2024)
- Critique and review of the answers is *strongly encouraged*.

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

