CREATING A SAFE 4-H ENVIRONMENT

For 4-H Volunteers

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2/4/2025 | 1

What is Risk Management?

Risk is a situation involving exposure to danger.

Risk management is the identification of potential risk and finding the best path forward to ensure a safe environment for all.

Every risk that is identifiable is also manageable!

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2/4/2025 | 2

How do we manage risk?

Risk Benefit Analysis

- What are the risks?

- What is the educational benefit?

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https://www.theiim-india.org/blog/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/shutterstock_1736315121-scaled.jpg

2/4/2025 | 3

Identifying and Assessing Risks

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Controlling Risk and Reviewing Control

Avoid   Accept

Risk

Transfer   Reduce

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2/4/2025 | 5

What is your role in Risk Management?

4-H Volunteers

Create a Safe Environment for Youth

| Supervision | Programming | Environment |

Follow Expectations, Policies and Procedures

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2/4/2025 | 6

Slide 1

What is your role in Risk Management?

Follow Expectations, Policies and Procedures

Know your resources:
- 4-H Policies and Procedures
- State Project (rules)
- County Handbook (rules)

Volunteers are provided liability and legal protections by working within the 4-H expectations, rules and policies.

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2/4/2025 | 7

Slide 2

What is your role in Risk Management?

4-H Volunteers

Supervision	Programming	Environment
• 2 Approved 4-H Volunteers • Depends on age, typically 8:1 youth to adult ratio • Active Supervision	• Age appropriate and hands on • Follow project safety rules • Check about insurance • Prepare for accidents	• Check the scene for physical hazards • Set up with safety in mind • Communicate expectations to all • Watch for changes in the environment and follow Emergency Procedures if necessary

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Slide 3

What is your role in Risk Management?

Create a Safe Environment for Youth

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2/4/2025 | 9

Risk Management Best Practices

- Be proactive and prepared.
- Involve others in all stages as appropriate.
- Maintain open lines of communications with your 4-H Educator at all times.
- Communicate expectations in advance with everyone.
- Be consistent with communication, expectations, enforcement of rules and actions.
- Make decisions in the best interest of all and in alignment with 4-H Policies and Procedures.
- Trust your gut!

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2/4/2025 | 10

Scenario Work

Let's practice what we have learned!

- Work with your group to discuss the scenario provided

- Talk through the questions associated with the scenario and use information from today's session to address the risk management concerns.

- Be prepared to highlight your situation and share out at least two things you would do in to make a safe environment for participants.

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2/4/2025 | 11

Managing Risk May Cause Conflict

Managing conflict can help mitigate risk.

Image by Risely (2024)

Use:
- Tips for dealing with difficult people.
- Conciliatory Gestures
- Tips to getting conversations back on a trave toward a solution.
- Constructive Responses
- 4-H Personnel Resources

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2/4/2025 | 12

I's OK to ask for help!

Remember that our Extension Specialist, Assistant Program Leaders, Program Area Mentors and other educators are here to help also! Click on the website link to find the person you need or an educators contact in a county too!

As a volunteer your first contact needs to be your local educator! They will help provide the resources you need along with helping contact who you need to contact on campus.

If your educator isn't available, you can go to the Extension page with contact information for all leaders and specialist in Extension https://extension.purdue.edu/about/administration.html

The key contact for volunteers for 4-H is Jamie Morris
Email: morris688@purdue.edu

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2/4/2025 13

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2/4/2025 14