



Youth Horse Literacy Program

Update to HORSE Safety 2023

April 18, 2024

What is the Youth Horse Literacy program?

The Youth Horse Literacy (YHL) program is a way to expand the knowledge and literacy within the horse program. This program will replace the previous HORSE Achievement Program or Horse safety. Not only will youth learn safe skills, but also a more comprehensive knowledge of the horse industry.

When will the YHL take effect?

Took effect on October 1, 2022 for the upcoming 4-H year.

What are the requirements for YHL?

Members are required to select one option below.

- Attend a 4-H YHL event in county; examples
 - Hippology Contest
 - Eligible for Beginner, Junior, Senior
 - Strongly encourage counties to have a “critique” post event to go through correct answers to help promote learning.
 - Horse Workshop
 - Must include some safety element
 - Preferred training for Beginners
- Attend YHL in another county
- Complete Horse Sense: Equine Youth Safety Course & write a paper
 - <https://www.myhorseuniversity.com/youth-safety>
- Complete Stay Safe Working with Horses Interactive Course & write a paper
 - <https://innovativemedia.nmsu.edu/products/information/safewithhorses.html>
- Compete in previous State Hippology Contest
 - Will go into effect for 2023

What paperwork is required?

Youth will be given a certificate by host of the event. Certificates can be either in hard copy format or digital. Youth/ families will show their 4-H county Extension office proof of completion by June 1, 2023.

Will youth still have to do Horse Achievement Program Form?

No, they will provide their county Extension office the completion certificate from the event.





Will youth have to complete a YIA event and the safe skills?

No, the participation in a workshop, hippology contest or the online options will suffice. However, we still strongly encourage youth to compete in other youth in action events, give presentations and practice their safe horse handling skills every time they are around their horse.

What constitutes a “Horse Workshop”?

Educational event that is a minimum of 1 hour that builds on equine knowledge. A safety element would be required. Examples:

- Proper ground handling
- Vaccines: Why, how and what?
- Showmanship & grooming
- Limitless other opportunities

Where can I find YHL events?

A list will be created and distributed to county offices. Families should reach out to local Extension Office.

