



Wisconsin 4-H Policy Update for 2021-22

September, 2021

Below are selected highlights from the changes over the past year to Wisconsin 4-H Policies for specific projects and/or activities. To review all Wisconsin 4-H Policies please visit: [Wisconsin 4-H Policies – Wisconsin 4-H](#)

As a reminder, all Wisconsin 4-H programs and activities must be supervised by a staff member or an adult, 18 years of age or older, who is an enrolled and approved 4-H volunteer. The primary purpose of this process is to ensure the safety and well-being of all participants (i.e., youth, their parents and families, volunteers and staff.)

Animal Science Projects and Activities (Update)

Cloverbud project members, youth in grades 5K-2, may participate in small animal clinics, demonstrations, workshops or other non-competitive educational activities with one-on-one adult supervision. Cloverbud project members may observe large animal clinics, demonstrations, workshops or other non-competitive educational activities.

ATVs and UTVs (New Policy)

The use of All Terrain Vehicles (ATVs) and/or Utility Terrain Vehicles (UTVs) by youth is prohibited at all 4-H meetings, activities and programs unless they meet ALL of the conditions outlined in the policy.

Bounce Houses and Moonwalks (New Policy)

The use of bounce houses and moonwalks is acceptable as a 4-H activity at a licensed organization/facility that follows the [Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services Administrative Code SPS 334](#) and has trained staff who will provide supervision.

Challenge Course and Zip Lines (New Policy)

4-H members, participants, and volunteers may engage in challenge course or zip line activities at a facility that has been certified by the [American Camping Association \(ACA\)](#) or a facility that can produce documentation that has met the minimum standards as outlined by the ACA. More details listed in the actual policy.

Dog Project (New Policy)

This new policy outlines standards for dogs participating in the dog project including required vaccinations and types of acceptable equipment. The policy also provides staff and volunteers the authority to remove dogs that are determined to be dangerous or unmanageable.

Fishing and Ice Fishing (Updated)

Clarifies that PFDs are only required when wading in water that is more than ankle deep or when fishing at sites with swift current, steep banks, other hazardous conditions. It also outlines the procedures for conducting ice fishing activities.

Go-Karts (New Policy)

Youth may ride Go-Karts as a 4-H activity at a licensed organization/facility that follows the [Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services Administrative Code SPS 334](#) and has trained staff who will provide supervision.

Horse Policy (Reminder)

All 4-H Horse project volunteers will annually agree to and sign the 4-H Horse Project Concussion Policy Acknowledgement Form via the online enrollment system or paper registration before they are approved to hold 4-H Horse Project riding or driving programs/activities.

The supervising 4-H volunteer will immediately remove a participant from the 4-H Horse Project riding or driving project/activity if the 4-H volunteer determines that the 4-H member/participant exhibits signs, symptoms, or behavior consistent with a concussion or head injury –OR– the 4-H member/participant was separated from their horse and hit their head or their head was struck.

Horseless Horse (New)

The new policy was developed to provide consistent guidance to 4-H volunteers and 4-H members enrolled in the Horseless Horse project. The policy was based on the guidance already provided by the Wisconsin 4-H Horse Association for participation in the Wisconsin 4-H Horse Expo.

Paddle Sports (Updated)

- All youth and adults must wear a properly-fit [personal flotation device](#) (PFD) while on the water.
- No lifeguard is required unless paddle sports activities are being conducted at a 4-H Camp. The reason for this exception is camp requirements are higher under [ATCP 78](#)
- An adult certified in first aid and CPR is required when youth are boating.

Paintball and Laser Tag (Reminder)

Paintball and Laser Tag are not approved 4-H activities.

Parades (Reminder)

All 4-H parade float drivers must be an enrolled and approved 4-H volunteer AND an [authorized driver](#).

Skiing (Downhill) and Snowboarding (New Policy)

- 4-H clubs and groups may participate in downhill skiing and snowboarding at premises of a “ski area operator” as defined in [Wisconsin Statute 167.33](#).
- 4-H youth leaders, adult volunteers and/or staff must develop a safety plan referring to the Alpine Activities tip sheet for additional information.

Sledding, Tubing and Tobogganing Policy (New Policy)

4-H sledding and/or tubing activities must take place on a hill designated by a local municipality or other government entity as approved for that purpose or on the premises of a “ski area operator” as defined in [Wisconsin Statute 167.33](#) OR at a hill that can meet all the relevant safety standards listed below and is approved by the 4-H Program Educator. A visual inspection at the site of the hill must take place prior to approval.

- Participants may not ride near roads, wooded areas, or bodies of water.
- Ensure the path is clear of rocks, sticks, poles, ice, permanent obstacles, and other potential hazards.

Trampolines

The use of trampolines is not an approved 4-H activity.

Woodworking (New)

Basic safety standards and a new [Wisconsin 4-H Woodworking Risk Management Tip Sheet](#) for 4-H Volunteers and Members.