



Risk Management in 4-H

In the 4-H Youth Development Program our most basic responsibility is to provide a safe, wholesome, and healthy environment for young people and for the adults who work with them. This responsibility of positive youth development is important and requires our attention. The reduction of exposure to risk is called “risk management.” Staff and volunteers who act on behalf of Washington State University Extension 4-H Youth Development are expected to be proactive partners in the development of risk management plans for all 4-H events and activities.

You may have heard the phrase, “*good faith effort.*” This phrase means that all reasonable efforts have been made to provide a high quality, safe environment for young people and the adults who work with them. Do not assume that young people, their parents or adult volunteers are always aware of and understand the possible risks and unsafe conditions associated with an activity.

Consequently, it is extremely important to inform youth and their parents beforehand so that they can understand the level of risk associated with the events and activities in which they wish to participate.

The enclosed forms are highly recommended though they are not absolutely required for participation. They are a part of a good risk management plan, and help to document your “good faith efforts.”

- **WSU Assumption of Risk Form** - Club/Program leader should **fill in name of Club/Program in appropriate blanks** before providing to parent for completion. Club/Program leader should keep completed forms in club files for at least seven years. Option: provide copies of completed forms to WSU Extension Office.
- **WSU Emergency Medical Release for 4-H** - Club/Program leader should **fill in name of Club/Program in appropriate blanks** before providing to parent for completion. Club/Program leader must keep completed forms in a **secure** location. For off-site activities, forms should be kept in a secure “traveling file so they do not have to be completed repeatedly.
- **4-H Participant Health Form** - Completed forms should be **kept in a secure location** by the Club Group Leader or certified 4-H volunteer designated by Group leader. Forms should be taken to club meetings and events so they do not have to be completed repeatedly.

Additional copies of forms are available from the Extension Office (Karen 659-3209) or on the Web: www.lincoln-adams.wsu.edu go to 4-H Forms & Publications



4-H Participant Health Form

This Health Form is OPTIONAL!

Fill in Club/Program Name AND Leader's Address in box – top left corner of page 1 **before** providing to member or parent.

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