



Hayrides: Safety Activity Checkpoints



A traditional activity that's often part of autumn festivities and apple- or pumpkin-picking trips, hayrides are fun for girls of all ages. Before participating in a hayride, ensure that hayride equipment (tractor/truck, bales of hay) are secure, that vehicle weight limitations and seating capacities are not exceeded, and that paths and trails are free of obstructions. Also ensure that girls are responsible riders who stay seated during the hayride.

Know where to go on hayrides. The hayride takes place on private property at a maximum speed of 10 miles per hour. Public roads and highways are not used. Connect with your Girl Scout council for site suggestions.

Include girls with disabilities. Communicate with girls with disabilities and/or their caregivers to assess any needs and accommodations.

Hayride Gear

Required Gear

- Qualified driver who is licensed to drive a vehicle in the jurisdiction and is at least 21 years of age.
- The hauled vehicle in good working order and meets all state and local safety requirements and displays proper identification showing these conditions have been met. The hauled vehicle has protective sides and rear fencing or gates, as

well as rear lights in working order. Any coupling of a trailer to a vehicle is appropriate to the load and has a safety chain.

Recommended Gear

- Layered clothing appropriate for the weather
- Comfortable walking shoes
- Sunscreen (SPF 15 or higher) and lip balm
- Sunglasses

Prepare for the Hayride

- Communicate with council and parents.** See *the Introduction to Safety Activity Checkpoints*.
- Girls plan the activity.** See *the Introduction to Safety Activity Checkpoints*.
- Arrange for transportation and adult supervision.** See *the Introduction to Safety Activity Checkpoints for the recommended adult-to-girl ratios*.
- Compile key contacts.** See *the Introduction to Safety Activity Checkpoints*.
- Select a safe hayride location and provider*.** Inspect the site to be sure it is free of potential hazards, and make sure emergency medical care is accessible. Ensure that the hayride route is clear of debris and hazards that may cause a jolt or jarring ride for participants.
- Dress appropriately for the activity.** Make sure girls and adults avoid wearing dangling earrings, bracelets, and necklaces that may become entangled in equipment.
- Prepare for emergencies.** Ensure the presence of a first-aid kit and a first-aider with a current certificate in First Aid, including Adult and Child CPR or CPR/AED, who is prepared to handle cases of abrasions, sprains, and fractures. Emergency transportation is available; if any part of the activity is located 30 minutes or more from emergency medical services, ensure the presence of a first-aider with Wilderness First Aid. See *Volunteer Essentials* for information about first-aid standards and training.

On the Day of the Hayride

- Get a weather report.** On the morning of the hayride trip, check weather.com or other reliable weather sources to determine if conditions are appropriate, and make sure that the ground is free of ice. If severe weather conditions prevent the activity, be prepared with a backup plan or alternate activity, or postpone the activity. Write, review, and practice evacuation and emergency plans for severe weather with girls. In the event of a storm, take shelter away from tall objects (including trees, buildings, and electrical poles). Find the lowest point in an open flat area. Squat low to the ground on the balls of the feet, and place hands on knees with head between them.
- Use the buddy system.** See *the Introduction to Safety Activity Checkpoints*.
- Girls learn about and practice safe hayrides.** Girls do not ride in the hauling vehicle. The driver of the hauling vehicle is licensed to drive a vehicle in the jurisdiction and is at least 21 years of age. The hauled vehicle meets all state and local safety requirements and displays proper identification showing these conditions have been met. The hauled vehicle has protective sides and rear fencing or gates, as well as rear lights in working order. The hay or straw is properly stacked to prevent slipping. Sufficient seating space is allowed for each person. Girls and adults remain seated during the ride.

Hayride Links

- National Safety Council: www.nsc.org
- Integrating Safety into Agritourism: <http://www.safeagritourism.com/>
- Haunted House Association: www.hauntedhouseassociation.org/safety/hayride_safety_and_common_sense.php

***These checkpoints must be reviewed with the vendor and/or facility, when appropriate.**