

Innovative Sharing Situations – Managing Risk for Project Leaders

Situation 1 – The Woodworking Project

Six youth, ages 10-14, are at a 4-H Woodworking meeting in Mr. Smith's basement. He met with them several times and stressed safety rules. The boys are working on birdhouses. Mr. Smith gets a phone call and leaves the basement. The kids start goofing around and turn on a new, heavy-duty electric staple gun. Joe gets a staple in his arm from Frank's shot. Mr. Smith returns to find Joe crying and blood around the protruding staple. Mr. Smith removes the staple, disinfects the wound, and bandages it. Later Joe gets a serious infection from the wound. Joe's parents claim that Mr. Smith is responsible and should pay the medical costs. Mr. Smith doesn't think he should be held responsible. Did Mr. Smith take all possible steps to manage risk associated with the woodworking project? Was he negligent? Should he have to pay the medical costs?

Situation contributed by Donna Menart, Assistant State 4-H Leader, UW-Extension 4-H Youth Development Program.

Situation 2 – Pet Pals

Your 4-H small pets project group has been asked to provide pets for a one-hour period once a month for the next nine months at a local nursing home. The pets are to be handled by the nursing home residents for enjoyment and entertainment. The nursing staff will be responsible for assembling the residents in a central location at the facility at the designated time. What risk management issues do you need to consider before accepting this invitation? Can the risk be appropriately managed? Should you accept the invitation to participate in this community service opportunity with your project members?

Situation contributed by Donna Duerst, 4-H Youth Development Educator, Rock County UW-Extension.

Situation 3 – Shooting Sports Dilemma

One of your co-leaders brings his 7 year old daughter, a Cloverbud member, with him to the weekly 4-H archery practice held in your backyard. She brings her own bow and arrows and practices with the other kids. She always follows the range safety rules. Her dad says she knows that she won't be able to compete in this year's match, but she's getting ready for next year's event. What's the problem here? What should you do to manage the risk appropriately?

Situation contributed by Carolyn Belczyk, 4-H Youth Development Educator, UW-Extension 4-H Youth Development Program.

Situation 4 – The Field Trip

Your project group has decided to visit the zoo for an educational field trip. You've encouraged members to bring their cameras and a bag lunch, along with a few dollars for souvenirs. Four parents have agreed to provide transportation. When you get to the meeting site, you discover that one parent is unable to drive as planned but has sent his 17-year old daughter with the family minivan in his place. She has a note from her dad, giving her permission to drive members to the zoo, and she assures you she knows how to get there. If you don't let her drive, you'll either have to overload the other vehicles or leave some members behind. Is there a problem with letting her drive? What should you do?

Situation contributed by Carolyn Belczyk, 4-H Youth Development Educator, UW-Extension 4-H Youth Development Program.