



Council Approval: Required. This is a vendor provided activity only.

Certificate of Insurance (COI): Required from vendor providing this activity for Council Approval. Visit [GSNI's webpage](#) for information on requesting a COI from the venue.

Activity Permitted for: D B J C S A

About Hayrides

A hayride, also known as a hayrack ride, is a traditional activity in the U.S. and Canada consisting of a recreational ride in a wagon or cart pulled by a tractor, horses, or truck that has been loaded with hay or straw for comfortable seating. Hayrides originated

with farm workers, including children, who rode loaded hay wagons back to barns for unloading. It was one of the few times during the frenetic days of the haying season that workers could stop to rest.

Hayrides are a fun and enjoyable activity for all ages who are visiting a farm and the rides are often part of other autumn festivities such as apple or pumpkin picking. Hayrides on Halloween are often dubbed “haunted hayrides.” These hayrides sometimes incorporate special effects and actors portraying ghosts, monsters, and other spooky creatures to attract thrill seekers and capitalize on the Halloween season.

Although hayrides are typically regarded as a safe and lighthearted activity, there have been incidents where hayrides have flipped or veered off the road, resulting in terrible consequences. Therefore, it is very important to follow the safety precautions and learn as much as you can about hayride safety ahead of time.

Learn More

- On farm and dairy hayride safety and hayride safety checklist: [Safe Agritourism](#)

Include Girl Scout Members with Disabilities. Talk to Girl Scout members with disabilities and their caregivers. Ask about needs and accommodations. Always be sure to contact the location and/or the instructor in advance to ensure they are able to accommodate those with disabilities.

Equity. Consider the history, culture, and past experiences of the Girl Scout members in your troop that could affect their ability to equally participate in an activity. Work with members and families to understand how an activity is perceived. Ensure that all Girl Scout members and their families feel comfortable and have access to whatever is needed to fully participate, such as proper equipment, prior experiences, and the skills needed to enjoy the activity. See the Equity section of the [Introduction to Safety Activity Checkpoints](#) for general advice about expense,

Emergency Action Plan (EAP). Review and document your Emergency Action Plan (EAP) before starting any activity and review it so all are prepared. Think through scenarios of what can go wrong such as an accident, physical injury, missing person, sudden illness, or sudden weather or water emergencies.

Hayride Checkpoints

Consider the location. The hayride must take place on sectioned off property (such as fields) intended for hayride use at a maximum speed of 10 miles per hour. Public roads and highways are not used or crossed.

Make sure the farm has adequate commercial insurance that covers the hayrides for hire in the amount of no less than one million dollars auto liability insurance. To prove this, a Certificate of Insurance (COI) is required for Council Approval. Visit [GSNI's webpage](#) for information on requesting a COI from the venue.

Evaluate the wagon. Ensure that the wagon has sturdy steps and handrails for easy loading and unloading of passengers. The wagon should have railings and seating. The cab walls should be three to four feet high.

The hauled vehicle is in good working order. It must meet all state and local safety requirements and display 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.

Evaluate the driver. The vendor providing this activity need to provide a qualified adult driver who is licensed to drive a vehicle in the jurisdiction and is an adult at least 21 years of age. Legal adult age is 18; however, based on the experience and maturity level needed for this activity, 21 years of age is required (and 25 years old is preferred) to provide enough years of driving experience, controlling the vehicle with child passengers, and hauling a trailer. If driving on private property (Volunteer-owned), the driver must follow the [Transportation SAC listed above](#).

Assess the safety of the hayride site. 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 all are responsible riders who stay seated during the hayride.

Learn and practice safe hayrides. For example, do not ride in the hauling vehicle. The hauled vehicle meets all state and local safety requirements and displays proper identification showing these conditions have been met. The hay or straw is properly stacked to prevent slipping. Sufficient seating space is allowed for each person. Riders remain seated during the ride with no leaning over the edges, and legs and arms do not hang over the trailer. Remain securely seated.

Do not ride in or on the tractor. The tractor or vehicle pulling the hay wagon must weigh more than the gross weight of the heaviest wagon in tow, which is necessary for adequate traction and braking.

Adult volunteers accompany Girl Scouts on the hayride to meet the grade level-specific volunteer-to-youth ratios.