Trimming Christmas Trees

Can youth do this job safely?

Youth must be able to do/have all of the following to perform this job safely:

- Avoid loose clothing, clothes with strings, tie up long hair
- Wear long pants and long sleeve shirt made of breathable materials
- Tall enough to stand on the ground and reach the top of the tree without overstretching
- Mature enough to consistently do what is expected
- Think through actions and consequences before acting
- Physical stamina to perform job for 50 minutes.
- Safely demonstrate job 4-5 times
- Maintain two-way communication link
- Wash hands after job is finished



Adult Responsibilities

- Comply with the working outdoors guideline
- Provide safe transport to the work area
- Confirm re-entry standards are followed
- Ensure equipment is mechanically sound and safety features are in place
- Ensure work area is free from as many hazards as possible
- Educate youth on avoiding/addressing remaining hazards
- Ensure tools are properly sized to youth
- Provide appropriate training on the safe use of cutting tools
- Demonstrate how to safely trim Christmas trees
- Train youth to call adult in case of equipment malfunction

Supervision

Note: Youth must be at least 14 years old to use shearing knives

12-13 yrs	Constant supervision progressing to intermittent
14-15 yrs	Intermittent supervision progressing to periodic
16+ yrs	Periodic supervision

Hazards



Slippery/ uneven surfaces | Repetitive motion | Chemicals | Sharp objects | Heat/cold stress

Protective Strategies



Non-skid shoes | Gloves | Eye protection | Handwashing | Leg protectors (if using knives)



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