

# **Operating a Lawn Mower** (push mower and riding mower)

### 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
- · Check and clear area of debris in path of mower
- Stay focused on task for up to 50 minutes
- · Recognize a hazard, problem solve, and respond appropriately
- · React quickly to hazards
- · Mature enough to consistently do what is expected
- · Think through actions and consequences before acting
- · Good peripheral vision
- · Reach and operate controls when standing behind push mower
- · Strength to safely maneuver push mower
- · Reach and repeatedly operate controls of riding mower without straining when seated and wearing seatbelt
- · Use hands and feet simultaneously
- · Safely demonstrate the job 4 to 5 times
- · Comply with the working outdoors guideline
- Maintain two-way communication link

### **Adult Responsibilities**

#### · Ensure mower is mechanically sound with safety features in place

- · Verify area is clear of debris before mowing
- · Ensure youth do not operate mower after dark or in bad weather
- Train youth to operate riding mower at low speed and on level ground
- · Educate youth to mount riding mower using 3 points of contact
- · Ensure work area is free from as many hazards as possible
- · Educate youth on avoiding/addressing remaining hazards
- · Demonstrate how to safely operate a lawn mower
- Provide appropriate training
- · Train youth to call an adult if equipment malfunctions



#### **Supervision**

Note: Ensure riding mower is sized appropriately for youth. See Tractor Operations Chart for guidance.

12-13 yrs	Constant supervision progressing to periodic (no riding lawn mowers)
14-15 yrs	Intermittent supervision progressing to periodic
16+ yrs	Periodic supervision

## Hazards









Rollover--rider Extra riders Tip over--push

Sharp objects/ entanglement (mower blade)

#### Collision

#### Non-skid shoes

Hearing protection

**Protective Strategies** 

Eve protection Operator's

manual

ROPS and seatbelt (if present)

