

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 <u>Tractor Operations Chart</u> 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 Tip over--push



Extra riders



Sharp objects/ entanglement (mower blade)



Run-over



Collision

Protective Strategies







Hearing protection



Eve protection



Operator's manual



ROPS and seatbelt (if present)

