Case Study: Transportation and Lodging

CASE STUDY NOTICE
The following case study is designed to be instructive of the issues that should generally be addressed in the situation described; they are not an exhaustive list of actions for every similar situation faced by Extension employees. The particular facts of the situation will always dictate the appropriate response. Specific questions related to a particular fact pattern should be discussed with the proper Extension administrator(s).

SITUATION:

You are providing leadership to the county’s meat judging team that includes teens (male and female) between the ages of 14 to 19. Practices are held at a local processing plant and contests are held at various locations around the state. Team members are required to provide their own transportation to practices. The Extension office coordinates travel and lodging for all contests. Two team members, one 19 years old and one 16, are driving without parents to the contest.

Instructions: Using the above situation, consider and discuss the following questions:

1. What is at risk for the organization and/or the individuals involved in this activity?
2. What strategies might be implemented to minimize risks associated with this activity?
3. What type of information needs to be provided to participants, parents, guardians, and chaperones?
4. Do the same policies/procedures/guidelines apply to the 19-year-old 4-H member (who is legally an adult) as for the 16 year-old member?

Immediate response:

1. Obtain a letter of consent from the parents of the members who drive, and inform the parents that their own personal auto insurance will provide the only coverage if an accident occurs.
2. Do not allow any other members to travel with the two teen drivers.

Future solutions to situation:

Establish a county policy before the start of judging season and announce the policy (up front) at a kick-off meeting when team members and their parents are present.