



Shriners Hospitals for Children - St. Louis

April 2006 NEWS

Screening Clinics

Many Shrine Centers are hosting screening clinics in their territories during April and May. If your Shrine Center or Club is sponsoring a screening clinic, please call our applications department at 1-800-850-2960 and let us know the date. This helps us know when to expect an increase in the number of applications coming in.

We are also available to help if you need advice about conducting a screening clinic. We invite you and members of your screening clinic committees to visit Shriners Hospital and meet the staff members who can be resources for you. Call PR at the number below if you have further questions, or if you would like a screening clinic handbook.

Remember, we're only a phone call away if you have a question about an application or whether or not a child could be a potential patient.

Lawnmower Safety

This is the time of year when our hospital begins to see a rise in the number of children who have had traumatic amputations due to accidents with lawnmowers. These types of accidents are entirely preventable, by simply teaching folks that children should never be in a yard while a lawnmower is in operation. We have included a fact sheet about Lawnmower Safety with this mailing, and we urge you to share it with others, including your Shrine Center newsletter and local media.

2006 First Quarter - Applications Report

Shrine Center	1st Q 2005	1st Q 2006	Difference +/-
TOTAL	553	555	+2
Abdallah	9	21	+12
Abou Ben Adhem	72	62	-10
Ainad	130	123	-7
Akdar	9	12	+3
Al Chymia	8	14	+6
Ansar	35	36	+1
Arab	5	6	+1
Ararat	41	32	-9
Bedouin	2	0	-2
Hadi	27	17	-10
India	0	2	+2
Isis	7	8	+1
Kaaba	0	3	+3
Midian	6	13	+7
Mirza	12	9	-3
Moila	8	8	0
Moolah	136	137	+1
Rizpah	10	10	0
Sahara	3	3	0
Scimitar	3	4	+1
Zorah	6	12	+6
<i>Non-Affiliated applications</i>	24	23	-1

Our application numbers for the first quarter of 2006 have been tallied - and the good news is that we're up by two applications over last year. For each Shrine Center, we included the number of applications you referred to the hospital in the first quarter of 2006, with a comparison to last year's figures. The Shrine Centers in bold increased the number of applications submitted over last year's first quarter - Congratulations!

For more information, contact the Department of Public & Community Relations
314-872-7837 or trobbins@shrinenet.org



Shriners Hospitals for Children, St. Louis

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Lawnmower Injuries

Facts - Lawnmower Injuries*:

- Eight children a day are injured by riding lawn mowers.
- Each year, about 75 people are killed on or near riding lawn mowers and garden tractors.
- One out of every five of these deaths is a child.
- Most deaths occur when the child is in the path of a moving mower.
- 85% of runover/backover victims are between 15 months and 10 years old. 24% are passengers on a riding lawn mower, while 74% are playing near the area being mowed.
- Runover/backover injuries are often complex, involving open fractures, soft tissue loss, and damage to growth plates. Such cases often require multi-specialty care continuing throughout childhood.
- Lawnmower injuries rarely occur through the fault of the manufacturer, since safety standards for powered mowers were implemented in June 1982 and July 1987.
- In spite of these safety standards, the number of children injured by lawnmowers has not declined since 1987, and children under 10 years old are most likely to require hospitalization after an injury associated with a riding lawnmower.
- When a parent or family member is the operator of the lawnmower during the accident, blame and guilt issues among family members lead to a high incidence of divorce.
- Half of children injured by lawnmowers change their goals and plans for the future even when they report a return to normal athletic ability after the injury.

Lawnmower Safety Tips:

- **NEVER** take passengers on riding lawn mowers. In addition to the potential accident caused with a passenger slipping off, it teaches children that a riding lawn mower is a ride, rather than a potentially dangerous piece of equipment.
- Keep children out of the yard - and indoors - while mowing the lawn.
- Children under the age of 14 should not be allowed to operate a lawnmower.
- Always prepare your lawn for mowing. Remove all sticks, rocks, toys, etc. Make sure nothing is hidden in the grass that could end up being dangerous debris or projectile.
- Handle fuel with care. Wipe up spills. Never fill the tank on a mower that is hot. Never smoke or use any kind of flame around gasoline.
- Check guards and shields. Be sure to read the owner's manual and know how to operate the equipment. Don't remove or disable guards or other safety devices.
- Use a mower with an automatic blade cut-off. Stay behind the handle until the blade stops. Never reach under a mower while it is still operating. If you need to remove debris or check the blade, disconnect the wire from the spark plug.
- Don't cut grass when it's wet.
- On slopes, mow up and down rather than across the slope.
- Wear appropriate clothing and shoes: long pants, long-sleeved shirts, eye protection, heavy gloves, and sturdy, close-toed shoes with slip-resistant rubber soles.

* Statistics and information from "Management of Lower Extremity Riding Lawn Mower Injuries in Children" Laura Kroenig, MD and John R. Davids, MD - Shriners Hospitals for Children - Greenville, S.C. *Orthopaedic Nursing* magazine. March/April 2000.

For information contact us at 314-432-3600; www.shrinershospitals.org

Patient referrals: 1-800-850-2960