

The Oregon 4-H Member Annual Participation Fee

The Oregon 4-H Youth Development Program assesses an annual fee of ***eighteen dollars for each young person*** enrolled in a 4-H club experience. This includes members of project clubs, community clubs, and other “club-based” experiences offered by the Oregon 4-H program. ***The fee will be twenty-three dollars for fees collected after January 31 of the current program year.***

Why is the fee necessary?

Increased costs and reduced public funding are making it increasingly difficult to continue to offer the type of 4-H program that Oregon’s youth need, deserve, and expect. To ensure that the quality and reach of Oregon 4-H remains unaffected by these cuts, we are asking that club participants cover approximately ten percent of the cost of participating in this program.

What will the funds be used for?

All of the funds will be used for the benefit of county 4-H programs. No part of the fee will be used to support on-campus activities or administration of the state 4-H office.

How will the fee be administered?

The fee will be assessed when members join or re-enroll in 4-H for the program year. The fee can be added to the participation fee that the county charges. To be eligible for the reduced fee of eighteen dollars, counties must transfer the collected fees to a designated OSU index no later than January 31 of the current program year. Transfers or deposits should be made to index HHS437 with the account code 06003 and your county’s activity code. Contact LeAnn Rutland in the UABC accounting department for more information.

Must the fee be collected directly from members?

No. Counties may choose whatever method they want to generate the funds needed to pay the annual participation fee. In some counties, the fee will be passed on to individual members. In other counties, some or all of the fees may be paid for by 4-H Associations, program sponsors, grants, or contracts.

Does every young person involved in 4-H in any way have to pay the fee?

No, only members involved “club-based” experiences are required to pay the fee. In general, the cost of supporting young people involved in sustained experiences such as clubs is greater than it is for other delivery modes. Participants in school enrichment programs, afterschool programs that are not organized clubs, and camps will not be charged the annual participation fee. Cloverbuds are also exempt from paying the fee as are participants in programs that are already entirely supported by user fees.

What if a family cannot afford the participation fee?

Finances will not be a barrier to participation in 4-H. No individual should be refused membership in 4-H because of their inability to pay the fee. Counties are encouraged to work with individuals, businesses, and organizations to find donors capable of providing scholarships to young people needing assistance with the payment of the fees. The State 4-H Office recommends that eligibility for any form of public assistance be a sufficient criterion for applying for a fee scholarship.

Is there a family limit to the fees assessed?

The fee will be assessed for the first two family members who join 4-H. The maximum annual participation fee will be thirty-six dollars per family, if paid by January 31, and forty-six dollars, if received February 1 or later.

How will a county know what it has paid?

Payments can be tracked using the activity code embedded in the transaction record. Consequently, the amount received from any county can be determined at any time.