

The Oregon 4-H Member Annual Participation Fee

Beginning with the 2009-2010 program year, the Oregon 4-H Program will assess an annual fee of ***fifteen dollars for each young person*** enrolled in a 4-H club experience. This includes members of project clubs, community clubs, afterschool clubs, and other “club-based” experiences offered by the Oregon 4-H program. ***The fee will be twenty dollars for fees collected after January 31, 2010.***

Why is the fee necessary?

Increased costs coupled with declining levels of state funding to the Statewide Public Service programs of Oregon State University has made it increasingly difficult to continue to offer the type of 4-H programs 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 state-assisted 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. We are pleased to announce, however, that most state-produced 4-H publications will now be available free of charge.

How will the fee be administered?

The fee will be assessed when members join or re-enroll in 4-H for the 2009-2010 program year. The fee can be added to the participation fee that the county currently charges. To be eligible for the reduced fee of fifteen dollars, counties must transfer the collected fees to a designated OSU index no later than January 31, 2010.

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?

At this time, the fee will only be assessed for young people involved in club-based experiences. Participants in shorter-term experiences such as school enrichment programs and day camps will not be charged the annual participation fee. A continuing effort will be made to explore how new business models can be applied to these programs to make them financially self-sustaining.

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 dollars per family, if paid by January 31, and forty dollars, if received February 1 or later.

How will a county know what they have paid?

Counties will receive periodic summaries showing both fees paid and subsequent amounts owed.

This fee will be evaluated on an annual basis and may be adjusted in the future.