A Guide to the Washington State 4-H Enrollment Fee

4-H

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION

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WSU Extension Youth and Families Program Unit
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL, HUMAN, AND NATURAL RESOURCE SCIENCES

Dear 4-H members and families,

For more than 100 years, Washington State 4-H has been committed to providing high quality, positive youth development experiences to all young people across Washington State. WSU Extension Administration, 4-H faculty and staff are committed to leading an educational program that empowers youth to reach their full potential. While we greatly appreciate, and celebrate the dollars that are entrusted to Washington State University, declining funding for Washington State University Extension and 4-H makes it difficult to create and sustain high quality and relevant 4-H youth development programs.

For years, Washington State 4-H has sought input on how to stabilize funding and yet grow a safe and high quality 4-H program. We have investigated funding structures from 4-H programs across the west and other state and national youth serving organizations. As a result of our work, an annual Washington State 4-H Enrollment Fee of $25 per member is being implemented beginning October 1, 2017. Our commitment is to provide the best 4-H program and operational support to local and state Extension programs. Funds generated will strengthen our program priority commitments for volunteer and staff development, project support and risk management procedures.

I am committed to working with the Washington State 4-H Foundation, College of Agriculture Human and Natural Resource Sciences (CAHNRS) Alumni and Friends, and private businesses to ensure that all young people in Washington can have access to high-quality 4-H programming. As we look to the future, together we can continue to grow a vibrant and strong 4-H youth development program through Washington State University Extension.

Sincerely,

Doreen Hauser-Lindstrom

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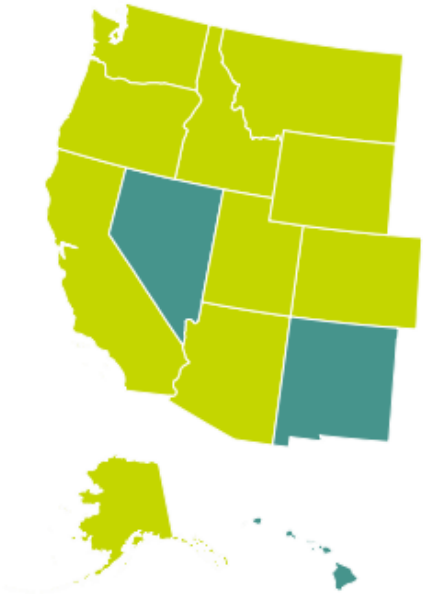
4-H'ers are...

4x more likely to give back to their community*

2x more likely to participate in STEM activities*

2x more likely to to make healthier choices*



10 out of the 13 Western States have some type of State 4-H Enrollment Fee in place or plan to implement a fee for the upcoming 2017-2018 4-H year**

What other organizations are charging per year

$228	$24	$25	$50	$25
the YMCA				

*The Positive Development of Youth: Comprehensive Finding from the 4-H Study of Positive Youth Development, National 4-H Council 2013
** Western 4-H Program Leader Responses
***Fees provided by other youth serving organizations websites on August 2017

Frequently Asked Questions

Why is a State 4-H Enrollment Fee Needed?

We continue to celebrate and appreciate the funds allocated to assist us, especially the funds provided by our county partners. However, with the cuts to state and federal funding and increased programming costs, there are not enough funds to maintain the quality 4-H program we feel Washington 4-H youth deserve.

What is the Difference Between a State 4-H Enrollment Fee and a Program Fee?

The State 4-H Enrollment Fee is the fee charged to participate in 4-H in Washington State. A Program Fee is any fee beyond the $25 State 4-H Enrollment Fee that a county may charge to support local 4-H programming. Not all counties will charge a Program Fee, but in those counties where a Program Fee is charged, payment of that fee is a requirement to be considered an Active 4-H member.

What is the Cost and When Does it Begin?

The State 4-H Enrollment Fee is $25/program year, with $5 going back to the county Extension office where the 4-H member is enrolled. A county may charge an additional Program Fee to support local programming. Implementation of the State 4-H Enrollment Fee will begin October 1, 2017. The State 4-H Enrollment Fee is charged each program year (October 1-September 30) and there will be no pro-rated fee based on enrollment date. This is a non-refundable enrollment fee.

Who is Included in the State 4-H Enrollment Fee?

All enrolled 4-H youth members (age 5 – 19), including Cloverbuds will be charged the $25 State 4-H Enrollment Fee. The State 4-H Enrollment Fee does not currently apply to short-term designations or group enrollments.

Will Certified 4-H Adult Volunteers be Charged the State 4-H Enrollment Fee?

No, we value the time, expertise and leadership our volunteers provide to the 4-H program.

Will there be a Discount or Cap for Families with Multiple 4-H Members?

No, there is no discounted rate or cap for families with multiple children.

When will the State 4-H Enrollment Fee be Collected?

Payment of the State 4-H Enrollment Fee will be required during the 4-H enrollment process in 4HOnline, beginning October 1 of each 4-H year. A 4-H member will not have an "Active" status in 4HOnline until the payment has been received and/or processed.

What if a Family Cannot Afford to Pay the State 4-H Enrollment Fee?

Finances will not be a barrier to enrollment in 4-H. No individual should be refused membership in 4-H because of their inability to pay the fee. Counties are encourage 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.

Can a Club Pay the State 4-H Enrollment Fee? Can a Club Fundraise for it?

The experience in other states with a State 4-H Enrollment Fee has been that it is best for the families to pay their fee; however, if as a club, the membership votes to cover the annual membership fee, they can do so. The club would need to be sure that resources are available for all present and future club members as new members join their clubs during the year.

Will the State 4-H Enrollment Fee Increase the Following Year?

No, WSU is committed to keeping the State 4-H Enrollment Fee at $25 for three 4-H program years (2017-2018, 2018-2019, 2019-2020). After three years, the Washington State 4-H Program will review and assess the current fee to ensure it meets future needs.

If Youth are in Multiple Clubs, do they have to Pay the State 4-H Enrollment Fee for each Club, or Just Once?

No, the State 4-H Enrollment Fee is based on an individual enrollment, not by the number of club memberships. Members are required to submit only one State 4-H Enrollment Fee annually.

If an Individual Moves to Another County and/or State, Do they have to pay for each County or State?

The member would pay the State 4-H Enrollment Fee once based on the original county enrollment. If the member moves to a different county within Washington, they will not have to pay the State 4-H Enrollment Fee again when transferring their enrollment to another county. Additional County Program Fees, if applicable, will be reviewed by WSU Extension faculty and staff. If a member moves to another state, they would need to adhere to any requirements for that state.

Will there be any refunds to the Enrollment Fee?

No refunds will be given.

Do 4-H Programs in Other States Collect an Annual Enrollment Fee and How Does the Washington State 4-H Enrollment Fee of $25 Compare to Other States?

Yes, 10 out of 13 western 4-H program states indicated that they have some type of program fee in place, or plan to implement a fee for the upcoming 2017-2018 4-H year. The range of enrollment fees from the states that have implemented an annual participation fee is $5-$38 annually. Some states also charge an additional amount for projects in which youth participate.

What Methods of Payment are Acceptable?

The State 4-H Enrollment Fee may be paid online with a debit or credit card – if the county chooses this option – or families may pay by check at the county level. Check with your county Extension office for invoice details.

If I Pay Online with a Debit or Credit Card, Who can see my Card Information?

When paying online with a debit or credit card, your card information is only viewable by the Credit Card Processing company. The state office, and county staff do not see your credit card details. All they see is that your payment of choice is "credit card."

How Will the State 4-H Enrollment Fee be Used?

Of the $25 State 4-H Enrollment Fee, $5 will be allocated to the county to support 4-H programming at the local level. The remaining $20 will be used by the Washington State 4-H Program to provide 1) A Safe Environment and Risk Management; 2) Quality Educational Programs and Experiences; and 3) Marketing, Promotion and Growing our Program at the county and state levels for youth and volunteers.

WSU Extension programs, employment, and volunteer service are available to all without discrimination (See WSU Executive Policy #15). Concerns regarding potential discrimination may be reported through your local Extension office or directly to the WSU Office for Equal Opportunity, web: oeo.wsu.edu, email: oeo@wsu.edu, phone: 509-335-8288.