



## Grays Harbor County

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY  
EXTENSION

October 1, 2018

Dear 4-H Members, Families, and Friends of 4-H,

As you already know, Grays Harbor County 4-H has a long history of providing local youth with opportunities to develop critical life skills, discover their personal potential, expand their career options, and contribute to our community as responsible individuals with confidence and character.

Thank you to all of our volunteers who make our programs relevant and meaningful and thank you to the youth who make our program shine as they display their mastery and generosity. Our 4-H members embody our motto of **"Make the Best Better"**!

The Washington State 4-H Program recently announced that members will be assessed a \$25 State 4-H Enrollment Fee beginning October 1, 2017 due to declining funding for WSU Extension. This fee is only for youth members, not volunteers. This fee will cover safety and risk management procedures, marketing, as well as volunteer and staff support. Additional information from WSU Extension regarding the fee is available in attachments to this letter.

Grays Harbor County 4-H will have various options available to cover this fee, so no child will be denied access to our program. If the fee is not a financial burden, families will be able to pay the fee in a variety of ways, outlined below:

- Credit card – Select this option when enrolling in 4HOnline for the new 4-H year. **(preferred method)**
- Check or cash – Select this option when enrolling in 4HOnline for the new 4-H year. Make checks payable to "Washington State University" and mail or deliver checks to the WSU Extension office. Mailing cash to the WSU Extension office is not recommended.
- If club funds are available, another option is having the \$25 fee paid by the club for all of their members. Work with your club leader to learn more about this option.

In addition, Grays Harbor County 4-H is exploring sponsorship donations from local benefactors and businesses to help youth, families, or clubs who may not have funds. We hope to continue to grow this fee sponsorship fund to ensure that all youth will have access to 4-H Programs. More information on these processes will be provided as details are available.

4-H is built upon volunteers who make youth development a priority. Thanks to all the volunteers and parents who have provided learning experiences to improve the lives of youth in our community. 4-H empowers youth and grows true leaders.

If you have questions regarding the fees or know of a business or 4-H alumni who would like to donate tax-deductible sponsorships, please contact me at (360)482-2934 or [tracie.hanson@wsu.edu](mailto:tracie.hanson@wsu.edu).

Sincerely,

**Tracie Hanson**

Tracie Hanson, Grays Harbor County 4-H Program Coordinator

WSU Extension  
Grays Harbor County  
4-H Youth Development

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(360)482-2934



*I pledge ...*

*my head  
to clearer thinking,*

*my heart  
to greater loyalty,*

*my hands  
to larger service,*

*and my health  
to better living.*

*For my club,  
my community,  
my country  
and my world.*

Washington State University Extension programs and employment are available to all without discrimination. Evidence of noncompliance can be reported through your local Extension office.



## 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 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.

### **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. An annual summary of spending will be provided to ensure program accountability.