

Constitution and Bylaws of the Mason County 4-H Council

Date Adopted: 11/14/2023

Article I

Name

1. The name of this organization shall be the "Mason County 4-H Council".

Article II

Objectives and Purpose

1. To promote and maintain a spirit of friendly, helpful cooperation between 4-H volunteers, members, staff, and others in all 4-H programs, activities, and delivery modes.
2. To promote, develop, strengthen, and coordinate Leadership Development training(s).
3. To promote, develop, and strengthen the county's overall 4-H Youth Development Program as a program planning council.
4. To give inspiration to each other through the exchange of ideas and working together toward common goals.
5. To help all volunteers and members gain greater vision of their mental, social, and physical needs for positive development.
6. To act as a guide in determining policies and standards for carrying out the Mason County 4-H Youth Development Program, to suggest changes when needed, and to promote new ideas to the State 4-H Council.
7. To accept or reject funds and/or items in keeping with the objectives of said corporation and in keeping with the objectives, purposes, and philosophies of the 4-H Youth Development Program.
8. To advise WSU Extension on policies within the county in accordance with WSU 4-H Extension.
9. To do everything necessary, suitable, or proper for the accomplishment of any of the purposes, attainment of any of the objectives, or the furtherance of any of the powers hereinbefore set forth either alone, or in connection with any other corporations, firms, or individuals, and either as a principal or agent, and to do every act or acts, thing or things, incidental or pertinent to, or growing out of or connected with aforesaid objectives, purposes, or powers.

Article III

Membership

1. Membership shall include all currently enrolled 4-H volunteers and 4-H youth.
2. County/Area Extension faculty, 4-H Program Staff and their delegates involved in the 4-H Youth Development Program will be ex-officio members with no voting privileges.
3. Discrimination in the 4-H Youth Development Program because of race, color, religion, origin, gender, disability, or sexual orientation is contrary to the purposes and policies of WSU Extension, Washington State University, and the USDA and violates the spirit and intent of civil rights laws.
4. Honorary membership may be granted to any person who is not an active or ex-officio member but can make a positive contribution to the 4-H Youth Development Program.
5. Ex-officio and Honorary members of the Council shall have the right to express opinions on any matter under discussion but are not entitled to vote.

Article IV

Officers and Council Council

1. The following elected positions will comprise the "Council Council": President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer. Optionally, there may be up to three (3) "At Large" appointed positions.
2. To be eligible to hold any of these offices, council members must be a currently enrolled adult volunteer or a youth 4-H member in good standing.
3. For the offices of President, Vice President, or Treasurer, a youth 4-H member in good standing may hold office in conjunction with an adult volunteer mentor.
4. Upon election, officers will be provided a 4-H Council Officer's Manual that contains job descriptions and necessary information to help in the fulfillment of the duties of the specific office.
5. Job descriptions will also be made available to all Council members.
6. The Council President and Treasurer will automatically be part of the "Executive Committee". See Executive Committee under Article X, Committees.

Article V

Elections

1. The election of officers comprising the Council shall take place at the annual meeting in November. (See Quorum rule under Article VI, Quorum.)
2. It will be the responsibility of the current Council to seek and recruit nominees for election to the Council Officers. This does not preclude nominations from General Council members.
3. The terms of office for the Council are as follows:
 - a. President: Two-year term, may not be elected for more than two consecutive two-year terms.
 - b. Vice President: One-year term, may not be elected for more than two consecutive one-year terms.
 - c. Secretary: One-year term, may not be elected for more than two consecutive one-year terms.
 - d. Treasurer: Two-year term, may not be elected for more than two consecutive two-year terms.
 - e. Officers at Large: Three (3) optional positions available for appointment by the Council.
4. In the event of a vacancy on the Council between elections, an appointment by the Council may be made to fill the vacancy.
5. It is the responsibility of the Council officer to notify the Council President when he/she is unable to attend meetings, or when he/she feels they can no longer serve in that capacity.

Article VI

Quorum

1. A quorum shall be recognized for voting, conduction of general council business, and elections with a 2/3 **Council** presence.

Article VII

Voting

1. General Meetings- Mason County enrolled adult volunteers and enrolled 4-H members are eligible to vote.
2. Council Meetings- Only Council members (officers) may vote.

3. Ex-officio and honorary council members may not vote.
4. Voting procedures shall be done following a modified "Roberts Rules of Order".

Article VIII

Duties of Council (officers)

1. The Council (as defined in Article IV) shall plan the program of work and goals at the beginning of each 4-H year.
2. Council shall hold meetings when necessary to support and implement the county program.
3. The Council shall make recommendations to the General Council for action.
4. The Council President, Vice President, and Treasurer will automatically be on the "Executive Committee" along with at least one other officer (appointed by the President) as needed to make decisions on an emergency basis, or to make decisions regarding membership infractions. The number of officers on this committee must be an odd number to prevent "tie" decisions. See Article X, Committees.
5. Develop, approve, and maintain a working annual budget.
6. Minutes of the general council meetings and any Council or Executive committee meetings will be kept. Minutes from General Council meetings will be submitted within a week of the meeting to the Mason County 4-H Office to be published on the Mason County 4-H website.

Article IX

Meetings

1. General Council meetings shall be held once per month, scheduled at the discretion of the Executive Committee Council Officers.
2. Election of Council Officers will be held in the month of November
3. It is strongly suggested that meetings follow a modified "Roberts Rules of Order".
4. Meetings may be held in person, by phone, or on Zoom.

Article X

Committees

1. Standing Committees-
 - a. Executive Committee: This is a committee comprised of at least 3 members of the Council. The President, Vice President, and Treasurer will automatically be members of this committee. Other committee members will be appointed by President as needed for the handling of situations outside of general council meetings. This committee will also be called upon to handle issues/situations concerning membership infractions. The Executive Committee will always be an odd number to prevent deadlock decisions.
2. Task Committees- shall be appointed as needed such as:
 - a. Fundraising Committee
 - b. Recognition & Awards
 - c. Education & Opportunities
 - d. 4-H Fair
 - e. 4-H Camp Committee
 - f. Robotics

Article XI

Amendments or Revisions

1. Bylaws may be amended or revised by a majority of the membership present at any 4-H Council meeting, provided fifteen (15) days written notice of the proposed amendment or revision is given at any monthly meeting.
2. Bylaws will be reviewed yearly (September of each year) by the Council. Revisions or amendments, if necessary, will be presented to the general council for approval and signed by the Council President and Mason County 4-H faculty.

Article XII

Use of Funds

1. The Mason County 4-H Council is a non-profit organization. Any funds received by the organization for carrying out its purposes shall not accrue to the benefit of individual members.

Article XIII

Dissolution

1. The Council of the Mason County 4-H Council are directed, in case of dissolution of the organization, to assign all assets of the Mason County 4-H Council to the Grays Harbor 4-H Council, a non-profit organization, for the purpose of carrying out their objectives. If Grays Harbor 4-H Council ceases to exist, all assets of the Mason County 4-H Council will be assigned to the Washington State 4-H Foundation.

Council President: _____

Wendy Vance

Date: _____

12/12/2023

WSU Mason County 4-H Faculty: _____

Date: _____

12/12/23

Ron Tuttle