

Constitution

County Council of 4-H Clubs

Article I – Name

The name of this organization shall be the Stark-Billings County 4-H Council

Article II – Object

The object of this organization are as follows:

1. To unify the interest and efforts of all 4-H clubs in Stark-Billings County.
2. To cooperate with the county Extension agents, the North Dakota State University Extension Service, and the United States Department of Agriculture in planning a program, in accordance with the Smith-Lever Act of May 8, 1914.*
3. To further promote the organization of 4-H clubs within the counties in order to make available to boys and girls the best information and training that science and art can contribute to homemaking and agriculture, and the development of the highest type of home and community life, through an organized effort of young people.
4. To provide assistance in coordinating and evaluating the functions of the 4-H clubs' events and activities in Stark-Billings County.
5. To encourage a uniform high standard of achievement in the 4-H program.
6. To help encourage the expansion and maintenance of the 4-H program.
7. To secure financial assistance to support the county 4-H program.

Article III – Membership

The Stark-Billings County Council of 4-H clubs does not limit membership or participation in its activities on the basis of race, color, creed, national origin, religion, sex, disability, sexual orientation or economic situation.

Section 1. The County Council shall be composed of all leaders, members and 4-H parents of each 4-H club in Stark and Billings Counties and the Extension Agents and professional Extension staff.

Section 2. Each 4-H club in Stark and Billings Counties is entitled to four voting rights. Voting rights are eligible to only delegates present at the council meeting and may not be proxy.

Article IV – Officers and Executive Committee

Section 1. The officers of the County Council shall be President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer. Officer's eligibility shall be leaders or members as President, Vice President and Secretary, and leaders serving as Treasurer.

Section 2. Executive Committee shall be composed of the four regular officers. The Extension Agents and other Extension professional staff shall serve in an advisory capacity.

Article V – Meetings

Section 1. There shall be three regular meetings of the County Council – September, January and April.

Article VI – Amendments

Section 1. Any section of this Constitution may be amended at any regular council meeting by the majority vote of the voting members present, providing notice of pending amendment has been sent the individual clubs at least one month before the meeting by the County Council.

By-Laws

Article I – Duties of Officers and Executive Committee

Section 1. The duties of the President shall be to preside at all meetings of the County Council and Executive Committee, to call special meetings of the County Council when necessary, and the usual duties of a President.

Section 2. The duties of the Vice-President shall be to act for the President in the absence of the latter, or when requested to do so by the President.

Section 3. The duties of the Secretary shall be to keep the minutes of the meetings of the Council and other Secretarial duties.

Section 4. The duties of the Treasurer shall be to take care of the finances of the Council, to disburse money at the direction of the Council and report receipts and disbursements when requested.

Section 5. It shall be the duty of the Executive Committee to conduct all necessary business of the council between meetings.

Article II – Annual Meetings

Section 1. The annual meetings shall be held in Dickinson or at a place designated by the Executive Committee.

Section 2. County council meetings shall be held during September, January and April. Members of the council shall be notified at least two weeks before the meeting.

Section 3. The program for the annual meetings shall be planned by the Executive Committee and the county Extension staff.

Section 4. Special meetings of the Council may be called by the President through the County Extension Office.

Article III – Elections

Section 1. Officers shall continue in office until successors have been elected.

Section 2. Officers shall be elected at the Fall meeting.

Section 3. County Council President and Vice President shall serve a two-year term. The Secretary and Treasurer shall serve a two-year term. The President and Treasurer shall be elected on even years; Vice-President and Secretary in odd years.

Section 4. All terms of officers elected at the Fall Meeting shall start at the close of the meeting.

Section 6. A majority of votes cast is necessary to elect. Each club allowed four votes.

Section 7. Offices of President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer shall not be held by leaders or members of the same club.

Article IV – Delegates

Section 1. Quorum is established by those in attendance at the meeting. Each club shall have four votes during any Council voting. Members/leaders should caucus among members prior to the call of the vote. Voting by proxy is not allowed.

Article V – Dues

Section 1. The annual dues shall be \$2.00 per member and are due January 1 of the current club year. Cloverbud members and first-year members do not pay council dues.

Section 2. These funds are to be used at the discretion of the County Council.

Article VI – Rules

Section 1. Standing committees shall be named at any regular council meeting by the President.

Section 2. Special committees shall be named as needed by the President.

Section 3. Council President may serve as, or appoint, a council representative to a special committee or board of county, state or national level.

Article VII – Policies

Section 1. A copy of all policies set by the county council shall be kept in one central file in the Extension office.

Section 2. Policies may be set, voted upon and/or changed at any regular county council meeting.

Article VIII – Robert’s Rules of Order shall govern the meetings of the council

Attachment #1 – 1991

Youth Development

4-H is the youth education program of Cooperative Extension. This non-formal educational program is conducted by the US Department of Agriculture, state land-grant universities and county governments and combines the resources of federal, state and county Extension staff and volunteer leaders. This unique partnership provides a youth program that is research based with a close tie to the research information of the land grant university. Participation in 4-H educational programs is open to all interested youth, without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability, sexual orientation or economic situation. Participants are primarily between the ages of 5 and 19 and reside in every demographic area.

The Smith-Lever Act of 1914 created the Cooperative Extension Service, with 4-H as an integral part. Extension became a division of the United States Department of Agriculture. The Smith-Lever Act designated land-grant universities in each state to administer Extension programs, with cooperative funding to come from county government as well. Thus, 4-H receives tax dollars at three levels: federally, through the Extension Service, USDA; state, through appropriations to North Dakota State University; and county, through appropriations by county government for Extension support. 4-H, like Extension, is unique. Its cooperative funding base ties it to three levels of government.

Furthermore, 4-H is the only youth program sponsored by North Dakota State University. 4-H also receives financial support from private funding—through business, industry and other friends of 4-H. However, since 4-H is tax supported to a certain degree, its philosophy and purposes must reflect the needs and concerns of the tax payers.

County government provides office space, clerical assistance, supplies and other financial help for Extension, of which the 4-H youth program is a part.

North Dakota, like most states, has a state 4-H Foundation to seek and distribute private donations. The National 4-H Council, in Chevy Chase, Maryland, provides support from private donors at the national level.

North Dakota 4-H Mission, Philosophy and Objectives

MISSION STATEMENT:

The mission of 4-H is to assist youth in acquiring knowledge, developing life skills and forming attitudes that will enable them to become self-directing, productive and contributing members of society. This mission is carried out through the involvement of parents, volunteer leaders and other adults who organize and conduct educational subject and project experiences in community and family settings. These learn-by-doing experiences are supported by research and Extension functions represented by the North Dakota State University, USDA, and cooperating counties with support from the National 4-H Council, North Dakota 4-H Foundation and other private support. These programs are offered to all people without regard to race, creed, color, disability, sex, national origin, sexual orientation or economic situation.

PHILOSOPHY STATEMENT:

The 4-H philosophy of learn-by-doing means education by experience.

Given that experience educates, then the 4-H curriculum is experience-centered. The experience-centered curriculum has several central features:

1. Objectives are: a) users gain matter knowledge, understanding and skills; and b) users gain life skills.
2. Subject matter is a means to an end, as well as an end in itself.
3. The program is a series of purposeful learning experiences.
4. Emphasis is placed on real life learning situations.
5. Participants plan and evaluate their curriculum.
6. Subject matter is selected cooperatively.
7. Individual development is emphasized.

Experience-centered curriculum educates by producing experiences that change behavior. Improved skills, abilities and understandings are the central aim.

OBJECTIVE STATEMENT:

Through the 4-H and Youth Development Program, youth will have an opportunity to:

1. Acquire knowledge, skills and understanding in areas of science and technology, life enrichment, individual and family resources, community, and environment and natural resources.
2. Acquire a positive self-concept.
3. Learn to respect and get along with people.
4. Learn and practice leadership skills and fulfill leadership roles.
5. Develop and practice responsible skills related to the environment.
6. Learn and use accepted practices for mental, physical, emotional and social health.
7. Explore and evaluate career and job opportunities.
8. Establish positive attitudes toward productive use of leisure.
9. Participate in community affairs.
10. Develop effective communication skills.

(The mission and objective statements were adapted in 1986 following a Task Force Report on the 4-H Program.)