

CONSTITUTION OF THE STARK/BILLINGS COUNTIES
COUNCIL OF 4-H CLUBS

ARTICLE I - NAME

The name of this organization shall be: Stark/Billings County Council of 4-H Clubs.

ARTICLE II - OBJECTIVES

The objectives of this organization are as follows:

1. To unify the interests and effort of all 4-H clubs in Stark/Billings County.
2. To cooperate with the County Extension Agent and Extension Home Economist, the Extension Service of the North Dakota State University and the United States Department of Agriculture in planning an program, in accordance with the Smith-Lever Act of May 8, 1914.
3. To further promote the organization of 4-H clubs within the county 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, handicap, 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 County Agricultural Agent, Extension Home Economist, and other 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. Officers eligibility shall be leaders as president and vice-president, members as secretary, and Extension staff personnel serving as treasurer.
- SECTION 2. Executive committee shall be composed of the three regular officers. The Extension Agent, Extension Home Economist, and any other Extension professional shall serve in an advisory capacity.

ARTICLE V - MEETINGS

- SECTION 1. There shall be two regular meetings of the County Council, one to be held in the fall, with the second to be held in the spring.

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 to 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, act as official county council representative on the North Dakota 4-H Foundation, 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 - SEMI-ANNUAL MEETINGS

- SECTION 1. The meetings shall be held at Dickinson or at a place designated by executive committee.
- SECTION 2. The fall meeting shall be held during October, with the spring meeting to be held either in April or May. Members of the council shall be notified at least two weeks before the meeting.
- SECTION 3. The program for the annual meeting shall be planned by the executive committee and the county Extension staff personnel.
- 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 two years. The secretary shall serve a one-year term. The president shall be elected in even-numbered years and the vice-president in odd-numbered years.
- SECTION 4. The office of treasurer is an unelected office with the Stark/Billings County Extension professionals delegating the duties.
- SECTION 5. 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. No officer, with the exception of the treasurer, may succeed him or her self.
- SECTION 8. Offices of president, vice-president, and secretary shall not be held by leaders or members of the same club.

ARTICLE IV - DELEGATES

- SECTION 1. County 4-H representatives to the North Dakota 4-H Foundation, Inc. shall be the president of the county council or their representative. Dues to the foundation shall be the responsibility of the county council.
- SECTION 2. 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 payable by January 1 of the current club year. Cloverbuds and first-year members do not have 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 voted upon and changed at any regular county council meeting. (Each club allowed four votes).
- SECTION 3. Policies may be set at any regular county council meeting.

ATTACHMENT #1 - Stark-Billings County 4-H Council Constitution - 1991

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

4-H is the youth education program of Cooperative Extension. This non-formal educational program is conducted by the U. S. 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, handicap or economic situation. Participants are primarily between the ages of 6 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. It's 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, it's 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.

N. D. 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 learning-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, handicap, sex, national origin or economic situation.

Philosophy Statement

The 4-H philosophy of learning-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 subject 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 Statements

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 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.)