



# North Dakota 4-H Program Fee

To maintain the North Dakota 4-H program in the face of budget cuts, 4-H will implement a \$20-per-year state-level program fee for participation.

The fee helps fill the gap left by declining state funding. The decision to implement the fee came after a \$4.1 million reduction in state funding for the Extension Service for the current biennium and a recommendation from an ad hoc committee the State Board of Agricultural Research and Education (SBARE) formed to review the NDSU Extension Service.

The committee reviewed Extension's mission, existing programs, the efficiency and effectiveness of the delivery methods for existing programs, and potential for program changes. One of the ad hoc group's preliminary recommendations is for the Extension Service to increase the use of fees or grants to provide cost recovery for programs, especially when the programs have significant private value.

The North Dakota 4-H program fee will be required starting with the 2017-18 enrollment year. Even though the enrollment year begins Sept. 1, 2017, fee collection will not begin until Nov. 1. Enrollments through the state's web-based enrollment system from Sept. 5 through Oct. 31, 2017, will be grandfathered in at no charge. This waiver will be in effect only for this year.

Youth in the 4-H Cloverbud program, which is designed for youth age 5 to 7, will not be subject to the fee. Details about the management of the fee have been provided to all of Extension's county offices so staff can answer more specific questions.

The 4-H program fee is just one of several budget adjustments being implemented across the Extension Service. The organization has identified staffing reductions, operating efficiencies and revenue generation as cost-saving measures.

The funds generated from the 4-H fee will be used to support the priorities of:

- Project and club organization materials and training
- Volunteer training and screening
- High-priority project areas
- Measuring the effectiveness of programs
- 4-H's presence at the North Dakota State Fair

A 4-H program fee is not a new concept to offset budget shortfalls. A 2016 survey of 38 other states' 4-H programs showed that 25 have a fee in place. Those fees range from \$3 to \$50 per year. Some states also charge by the number of projects in which a youth participates.

North Dakota 4-H is the NDSU Extension Service's youth development program. Through 4-H's educational mission, young people learn by doing so they can develop their full potential as capable members of society who also can give back to their communities.

Thank you for making a personal investment in the 4-H program. North Dakota 4-H has been committed to providing positive youth development educational experiences to young people across our state. Your personal investment, along with the public investment of county, state and federal funds, will help assure a strong 4-H program in the future.

Youth throughout the U.S., including North Dakota, participated in research to define and measure positive youth development (Source: Lerner and Lerner 2011). **Compared with their peers, youth involved in 4-H programs are:**



**2X** more likely to participate in STEM activities



**2X** more likely to make healthier choices



**2X** more likely to be civically active



**4X** more likely to give back to their communities

# North Dakota 4-H Program Fee

## Frequently Asked Questions



### Why is a 4-H program fee needed?

We appreciate the public dollars allocated to North Dakota 4-H. However, declining state funding to the NDSU Extension Service makes continuing to offer a high-quality 4-H youth development program difficult. A recently completed external review of the Extension Service also recommends cost recovery. This fee is necessary to help the NDSU Extension Service deliver the highest-quality 4-H youth development program.

A significant public investment still is being made through county, state and federal financial support for 4-H. Grant, contract and gift funds, including those from the North Dakota 4-H Foundation, also are a significant investment being made for 4-H.

### How much is the 4-H program fee and how will it be collected?

Youth enrolled in the North Dakota 4-H program through community clubs and project clubs and as independent members will pay a \$20 program fee per year. Payment will be required during the 4-H enrollment process via 4honline, North Dakota 4-H's web-based enrollment system. Enrollment for the new 4-H year starts on Sept. 1, 2017. Enrollments from Sept. 1 to Oct. 31 will be grandfathered in at no charge. The \$20 fee will go into effect Nov. 1, 2017. The waiver is for this year only. Payment options will be posted with the 4honline system.

### How will the 4-H program fee be used?

The funds will be used to provide educational, technical and logistical support to offset program delivery costs needed to maintain a high-quality 4-H program at the county, area and state levels for youth and volunteers. The funds also will be used to purchase the \$1-per-year accident insurance for all enrolled members.

### When will the fee be collected?

The fee is collected based on the 4-H enrollment year (Sept. 1–Aug. 31). The fee will not be pro-rated based on enrollment date.

### Will 4-H Cloverbuds be subject to a program fee?

No, 4-H Cloverbuds will not pay a program fee. They do not participate in the same program experiences that older 4-H members do, so they will not be charged a program fee. The annual program fee will be assessed only for North Dakota 4-H members ages 8 to 18.

### Will families with multiple 4-H members receive a discount or will fees be capped?

A cap has been set for families with multiple children. Families with three or more children enrolling will pay a \$60 maximum. For purposes of this fee, a family is identified as children living at the same address.

### What if a family does not have the ability to pay?

No child will be denied the opportunity to participate in 4-H due to the inability to pay. Families should work with their county office of the NDSU Extension Service in determining ability to pay. If all local options are exhausted, county offices have instructions about how to request a waiver of the annual fee. Providing supporting documentation will be part of the waiver request process.

Please contact the North Dakota 4-H office with additional questions:  
701-231-7251 or [ndsu.4-H@ndsu.edu](mailto:ndsu.4-H@ndsu.edu)