

Fundraising Guidelines for 4-H Clubs

The way in which a 4-H club earns money to carry out its program is of great importance. The methods we choose can either reinforce or undermine the basic values we strive to instill in youth.

Whenever your club is planning a fund raising activity, this checklist should serve as your guide. It will be helpful to you as you fill out the required form: "Request for Permission to Raise Funds in the name of 4-H".

NOTE: Raffles and other games of chance are legal methods of raising funds for non-profits in New York. Cornell Cooperative Extension Association advisory committees will determine whether these fund raising methods can be used locally. If used, New York State regulations governing raffles and other games of chance must be followed. Cornell University discourages these fund raising methods since the funds received do not demonstrate contributions to the extension club or group and are not considered to be an appropriate fund-raising mechanism for youth.

1. Have the 4-H'ers, parents, and leaders in your club approved your fund raising activity, including the dates and methods to be used.
2. Has your club discussed the expected profit versus the expenses of your fund raising activity? Have you discussed the hidden expenses: time, mileage, etc.?
3. Has your club discussed an alternate plan if your projected profit is not realized?
4. Do your fund raising plan and the dates avoid competition with other money-raising efforts in your community?
5. Will your fund raising activity protect the name and good will of 4-H and prevent it from being capitalized on by promoters of shows, benefits, or sales campaigns?
6. If any contracts are to be signed by your club, will they be signed by an individual without reference to Cornell Cooperative Extension of Allegany County 4-H Program and in no way appear to bind the County, State, or National 4-H Programs?
7. Have you checked to make sure that the fund raising venture you are planning to participate in is legitimate and worthy?
8. Even when sales are confined to parents and friends, will they get their money's worth from any product they purchase, function they attend, or services they receive from your club?
9. If youth in your club are under nine (9) years of age, have you selected fund raising activities that are appropriate to this age group and are parents supportive and willing to participate?

If your club has reviewed and considered the nine guidelines above and made a decision to pursue your fund raising venture, please complete the "Request for Permission to Raise Funds in the Name of 4-H" and send it to your county Cornell Cooperative Extension 4-H office. Approval must be confirmed before the fund raising effort starts.

Request of Permission to Raise Funds in the Name of 4-H

Submit to the Cornell Cooperative Extension 4-H office at least 30 days prior to the proposed fund-raising date.

The _____ 4-H club requests permission to contract with _____

for resale to raise money for: _____.

Items to be sold: _____

Anticipated amount to be raised: \$ _____

Current balance in treasury: \$ _____

The proposed sale would take place from: _____ to _____.

Location of sale: _____

We have planned these dates so they will not coincide with (nor detract from) a county-wide 4-H fund raising effort.

Proposed printed materials to be distributed in connection with the sale are to be attached to this request form.

The current New York State sales tax **8.5%** will be indicated to the consumer and collected on the retail price of each item sold.

Note: Sales tax must be collected on items sold at a shop, store, or booth, but not door to door.

Your signature below signifies that you have read and understand the guidelines attached the above information is correct to the best of your knowledge.

Approved by: (Office use Only)

4-H Program Committee Chairperson Date

4-H Program Leader Date

Requested by:

Club President Date

4-H Program Leader Date

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Results of the above fund raising should be reported to the 4-H office in the "Story of 4-H Club Activities" section of the Secretary's Monthly Report or a separate written report.