

# 4-H MONEY MATTERS FACT SHEET 2

## “FINANCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY”

### 4-H Money = Public Funds

- A 4-H Charter is the only document that officially recognizes a 4-H Club or Group and authorizes their use of the 4-H Name and Emblem to conduct 4-H Youth Development programs.
- All money received by a 4-H Club or Group is public money because 4-H is a public organization.
- Federal regulations governing the continued use of the 4-H Name and Emblem require annual financial reporting and accountability.
- Funds raised in the name of 4-H must be publicly accountable and must be used for 4-H educational purposes.
- All moneys received from 4-H fund raising programs, except those necessary to pay reasonable expenses, must be expended to further the 4-H educational program.
- The 4-H treasurer is responsible to all members, volunteer leaders, 4-H Youth Development Agents, and the public.
- Colorado State University Extension has oversight for 4-H programmatic and financial accountability.

### Accountability for Colorado 4-H Funds

- The 4-H Name and Emblem are protected by federal law (1948: Public Law 772, protecting the 4-H Name and Emblem, giving it a higher order of protection than a trademark or copyright). The USDA, United States Department of Agriculture, is responsible for overseeing its proper use.
- At the state level, the Director of Extension and the State 4-H Youth Development Program Director are responsible for authorizing and monitoring the use of the 4-H Name and Emblem, including the charter and renewal process. This includes educational programs and financial accountability.
- At the county level, the 4-H Youth Development Agent is responsible for authorizing and monitoring the use of the 4-H Name and Emblem. This includes both educational programs and financial accountability.
- 4-H members and volunteers are permitted to use the 4-H Name and Emblem if they are part of a 4-H Club or Group that is officially chartered by CSU Extension 4-H Youth Development. Permission to use the 4-H Name and Emblem and 4-H Charters may be revoked at any time.
- Each 4-H Club and chartered Group is accountable to the CSU Extension 4-H Youth Development Program and the Colorado 4-H Foundation for its educational programs and finances. All 4-H Clubs and Groups are accountable to federal and state government and must follow IRS rules and guidelines. The Colorado 4-H Youth Development Policies provide the guidance to 4-H Clubs and Groups for this compliance.
- 4-H Clubs and Groups are nonprofit groups as provided through a General Exemption granted to the Colorado 4-H Foundation by the IRS.
- The general exemption recognizes a group of organizations as federally tax exempt if they are affiliated with a central parent organization. This avoids the need for each organization to apply for exemption individually.
- The Group Exemption Number (GEN) has the same effect as an individual organization but the subordinates of the parent organization do not have to file reports with the IRS separately.
- The 4-H Charter and Annual Renewal process identifies and acknowledges 4-H Clubs and Groups as subsidiaries of the Colorado 4-H Foundation and grants the rights and responsibilities of the nonprofit status to them.
- As a subsidiary, 4-H Clubs and chartered Groups are exempt from paying federal income tax on funds raised on behalf of 4-H to support youth educational programs. Donors may deduct contributions to 4-H Clubs and Groups as applicable under the IRS codes. This includes gifts, bequests, legacies, transfers, etc.

### Changes in the Colorado 4-H Youth Development Policies Financial Policies

- Since 1948, the USDA through 4-H National Headquarters held the GEN for 4-H. All chartered 4-H Clubs and affiliated 4-H organizations were considered subsidiaries.
- With the passage of the 2006 Pension Protection Act, the financial accountability for all charities and non-profits were called into question and the rules and regulations adjusted accordingly.



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- In 2010, CSU Extension 4-H Youth Development was informed that the GEN held by the USDA through 4-H National Headquarters would be sunsetted. Each state was required to submit a plan for providing federal tax exempt status for their own 4-H Clubs and Groups that complied with federal and state laws.
- CSU Extension and the Colorado 4-H Foundation determined that the Colorado 4-H Foundation would apply for a GEN to cover Colorado 4-H Clubs and Groups.
- Changes in the Colorado 4-H Youth Development Policies/Financial Policies have occurred to ensure:
  1. Safety and accountability for volunteers, members, and 4-H funds and assets.
  2. Rules and regulations are in place to ensure the proper use of funds.
  3. Programmatic and fiduciary responsibility required for the use of the 4-H Name and Emblem are in place.
  4. Compliance with current federal and state laws for nonprofit, non- foundation status, financial accountability and General Exemption Number and IRS reporting.
  5. Prevent 4-H Clubs and Groups from losing nonprofit status and accidentally become classified as a private foundation. The burden of proving the status of a nonprofit lies with the 4-H Club or Group.
  6. If a 4-H Club or Group loses its nonprofit status or becomes classified as a private foundation, it will no longer be covered under the General Exemption Number for Colorado 4-H Clubs and Groups and will lose its Colorado 4-H Charter. It will not have the protections and support of the University. The 4-H Club or Group will not be able to use the 4-H Name and Emblem or function as a 4-H group.

Responsibilities for 4-H Money:

Who	Responsibility	Accountable To
<b>4-H Club or Group Treasurer 4-H Volunteer Leader(s) with oversight for the 4-H Finances</b>	Proper handling of 4-H money including keeping accurate books and reporting to membership Ensure proper handling of 4-H money, support 4-H treasurer, complete annual financial reports, make sure Colorado 4-H Youth Development Financial Policies are implemented, follow state and federal laws in regard to handling 4-H money	4-H members 4-H Club or Group 4-H Youth Development Agent
<b>4-H Club, Board, Committee or Group</b>	Support treasurer and volunteers working with club or group finances; ensure all 4-H clubs and groups are in compliance with Colorado 4-H Youth Development Financial Policies; review and ensure that Annual Financial Reports are complete and accurate	4-H Youth Development Agent
<b>4-H Youth Development Agent</b>	Support and educate volunteers on 4-H financial practices; ensure all 4-H clubs and groups are in compliance with Colorado 4-H Youth Development Financial Policies; review and ensure that Annual Financial Reports are complete and accurate; complete 990 for groups as needed; complete reporting to the state on the 4-H Club and Group data	4-H Youth Development Program Director

For More Information: [Colorado4h.org](http://Colorado4h.org)

Developed by Sue Pleskac, 4-H Youth Development Specialist, UW-Extension. Adapted with permission for Colorado 4-H, 11/14.

