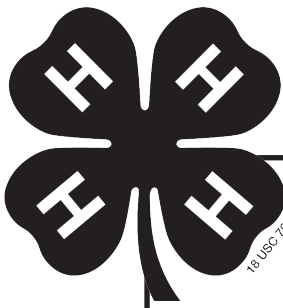


TEXAS A&M
AGRILIFE
EXTENSION



Texas 4-H Youth Development
**4-H Club Financial Management
Rules & Guidelines**



The Texas 4-H Youth Development Program is supported in many different ways throughout the state. From the countless hours given annually by volunteers to the countless dollars provided to 4-H members through stock shows, fund raisers, and through other giving opportunities.

As a youth development organization that receives financial support from various entities in our communities, it is our responsibility as a 4-H Program, County Extension Offices & Agents, Volunteers, and 4-H Club officers/members to ensure that the management of financial funds is handled in the most transparent manner. The Texas 4-H Youth Development Club Financial Management Rules & Guidelines provide rules, guidance, and best practices for Extension Offices, volunteers, and club officers to follow when it comes to the management, accountability, and reporting of 4-H funds.

The management of 4-H club/group funds should be of the utmost priority for the leadership of the 4-H club/group. To help Texas 4-H Clubs/Groups manage their funds please refer to the document called “4-H Club Financial Management Rules & Guidelines.” This publication is the official rules and guidelines for managing 4-H funds within the Texas 4-H Youth Development Program and can be downloaded at: <http://texas4-h.tamu.edu/publications>.

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*Reviewed by Texas 4-H Youth Development Program in July 2014.
 Affirmed through Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service Administrative channels – July 2014.
 Document can be downloaded at: <http://texas4-h.tamu.edu/publications>*

SECTION 1: PROCEDURES FOR HANDLING 4-H CLUB FUNDS

Section 1.1: It is the responsibility of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service Director and Assistant Director and state leader for Texas 4-H Youth Development to authorize use of the 4-H name and emblem within the policies of the Cooperative Extension and the Secretary of the United States Department of Agriculture. These responsibilities include:

- A. Keeping records of all 4-H club/groups and/or organizations to which authority to use the 4-H name and emblem has been granted within the county or multi-county area for which the designated agent is responsible.
- B. To secure from each organization authorization to use the 4-H name and emblem a periodic report of activities which includes, but not limited to, such things as bylaws, bank statements, annual budgets, and charter applications.
- C. Reviewing each 4-H organization's activities to determine that it continues to meet the particular 4-H objectives for which it was established and that the 4-H name and emblem are used in accordance with the statute.
- D. To provide a letter, 4-H Club charter or other certificate of authorization authorizing a group, or volunteer leader to carry out a program of youth activities using the 4-H name and emblem.

Section 1.2: The responsibilities of the individual 4-H organization are to maintain a record of its activities, contributions received, and to prepare and keep on file a record of financial transactions.

Section 1.3: Federal law requires that funds raised or given in support of 4-H programs be handled in a manner of public trust.

Section 1.4: Those responsible for handling funds must do so in an open, responsible and trustworthy manner. Administrators, faculty, staff, club managers and treasurers must be able to carry out their responsibilities as defined in the rules and guidelines and/or club/group bylaws for handling finances and assets.

SECTION 2: MANAGEMENT OF 4-H CLUB/GROUP BANK ACCOUNTS

Section 2.1: Establishment of 4-H Club/Group Bank Accounts

- A. The name "Extension" or "Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service" should never be listed as owner of the fund account. The owner should be the "_____" 4-H Fund, "4-H Fund." Do not use the word "County" in the name of a 4-H account because it could be mixed in with other county government accounts.
- B. All bank accounts and/or securities held by 4-H groups should be associated with an Employer Identification Number (EIN) secured by the specific group or organization.
 - Use form SS-4 from the IRS to obtain an EIN.
 - Agents, leaders, parents or members **SHOULD NEVER** use their social security number on a 4-H Account. Those funds will be reported to the IRS under that individual's name.
- C. Account Signatures
 - A 4-H club/group account needs to have two (2) signatures.
 - Preferably: A club manager and the treasurer. In the event that a bank will not allow a 4-Her to be on the signature card, another screened volunteer for that club should serve as the second signature.
 - The two signatures should **NOT** be from a married couple or a parent and sibling from the same household.
 - Two signatures also need to be on each check written from the account.
- D. Changes on Account Signatures
 - Notify the bank immediately in writing of any changes in check signers or persons authorized to withdraw funds from the account.
- E. A 4-H club/group should only have one bank checking/savings account. Within that account, the club/group may need to establish in their accounting system, sub-accounts for particular events and/or activities.

Section 2.2: Receiving Funds

- A. Record cash receipts immediately upon receipt and deposit on a daily basis.
- B. Prepare a list of all remittances received and make comparisons of this list with subsequent bank deposits.
 - A. Safe combinations and keys to cash boxes or files should be restricted to a minimum number of persons.
 - B. The person who collects funds and the person who writes checks should not be the same. For example, a county secretary can collect entry fees and then give the money to the treasurer for deposit. Preparing a list of all remittances received in the mail and comparing this list with subsequent bank deposits should be a routine function of county

faculty and the financial review committee.

- C. Detailed records (original invoices and receipts) should be kept on money collected (date collected, from whom, amount collected, purpose).

Section 2.3: Requesting Funds

- A. A check request form should be used when requesting funds and kept with account records.
- B. Make all payments by serially numbered checks. All receipts, checks, orders, etc. should have a pre-numbered sequence which can be accounted for later. Maintain duplicate copies of receipts given to individuals who turn over cash.
- C. No checks are made payable to cash.
- D. All supporting documents are stamped or adequately marked to prevent their reuse.

Section 2.4: Reimbursements

- A. Reimbursement claims should be supported by cash register tapes or paid invoices that clearly state the purpose of purchase and from whom the purchase was made.

Section 2.5: Reconciliation of Accounts

- A. Bank accounts should be reconciled monthly and any adjustments recorded in the records immediately. Reconciling items should be handled in the month they are discovered.
- B. The person who writes the checks should not be the one who reconciles the bank statement. Bank statements should be delivered unopened directly to the reconciler.

SECTION 3: RETENTION OF FINANCIAL RECORDS

Section 3.1: Clubs are to retain records based on the IRS guidelines which generally state the statute of limitations runs three years after the date of the return is due or filed, whichever is later.

Section 3.2: Detailed records (original invoices and receipts) should be kept on money collected, from whom, amount collected, purpose) and spent (date spent, who was paid, amount paid and purpose of payment).

Section 3.3: It is the responsibility of the Club Manager(s) and the Treasurer to develop a plan for keeping track of purchases, receipts, and bank statements.

Section 3.4: Per Texas 4-H, Inc. requirement: financial records should be uploaded to 4-H Connect for Chartering.

SECTION 4: ACCOUNTABILITY

Section 4.1: Issue checks to vendors only for payment of approved original invoices which have been re-added and extended.

Section 4.2: Try to match the check with receiving documentation or other evidence that the goods or services are complete.

Section 4.3: Reimbursement claims should be supported by cash register tapes or paid invoices. If a receipt has been lost, an affidavit by the employee/volunteer can suffice.

Section 4.4: If a prepayment is needed, an initialed statement can be used as support until the item is purchased. The subsequent invoice can be attached later.

Section 4.5: A computer software package with adequate built-in controls is recommended any time a bank account is involved. Commercial products like QUICKEN[®] or Quick Books are examples. These programs are easy to use and have an excellent support system by the manufacturer. These programs allow you to record and track transactions on accounts and create sub-accounts.

Section 4.6: All checks returned by the bank for insufficient funds should be dealt with immediately and a follow-up record maintained.

Section 4.7: No barter items should be used as payment of amounts owed to outside parties or employees. These transactions must be handled by check.

Section 4.8: All funds must be accountable to the club/group budget that has been presented and passed by the club/group membership. Amendments and/or overages to the club/group budget should be presented at regularly scheduled meetings for approval by membership.

SECTION 5: CASH WITHDRAWALS

Section 5.1: If a club/group withdraws cash funds, the following **MUST** be done:

- A. Reason for withdrawal must be documented (i.e. cash for concession stand)
 - If funds are taken out for a concession stand, there must be records of when money was deposited back into the account.
- B. Withdrawal must be made at the bank with a teller only and only by the club manager or treasurer. It is suggested that the club manager or treasurer have the bank teller sign or initial receipt to documentation persons involved in the transaction.
- C. If items are purchased with the cash a receipt must be submitted.
- D. NO checks should ever be written to “Cash.”

Section 5.2: If petty cash is necessary, place it in the hands of a single custodian who is responsible for a set amount of money in the most secure place available. A written log should be maintained of disbursements and a copy should be stored elsewhere. If a theft occurs, a report should be made to authorities and the amount of loss determined by the log. In any case, only a minimal amount should be kept as cash on hand, as more acceptable alternatives exist. There should be a regular financial review of the funds.

SECTION 6: CLUB/GROUP DEBIT CARDS

Section 6.1: Due to the risk involved with the use of Debit Cards, the Texas 4-H Youth Development Program recommends that a 4-H club/group does not use one, and continue to use checks for the purpose of clear and transparent documentation. However, if a club chooses to assume the risk and utilize a debit card, the following guidelines must be adhered to:

- A. Each club may only have one (1) debit card in the club’s name.
 - Exception: If two clubs share an account, they may have one (1) card per club.
- B. All purchases must be charged towards the correct club when reconciling books.
- C. Clubs **DO NOT** tie a PIN number to their account. It is to only be used as a “credit card.” That way a signature or a zip code is required for each purchase.
- D. There are to be **NO** cash advances or withdrawals from the account.
- E. If cash is needed for an event, it must be documented and submitted to the office. All withdrawals **MUST** be made at the bank with a teller **ONLY**. This can only be done by the club manager or treasurer. (See Section 5.1.B).
- F. Original receipts must be kept for all purchases.

Section 6.2: It is the responsibility of the Club Manager(s) and the Treasurer to develop a plan for keeping track of purchases, receipts, and bank statements. This plan should be documented in writing and provided to the County Extension Office.

Section 6.3: There are to be absolutely ***NO PERSONAL PURCHASES***. If this occurs within a club, the County Extension Agent, 4-H Specialist, and District Extension Administrator need to be notified immediately.

SECTION 7: CLUB PAY PAL ACCOUNTS

Section 7.1: PayPal accounts will be allowed for clubs. However, the guidelines below will need to be followed in order to meet financial management guidelines.

- A. Each club may only have one (1) PayPal account for their club. The club manager(s) and the treasurer should be the

only people to have access to that account.

- B. If a club manager leaves their position, the account password will need to be changed and redistributed to club manager(s) and treasurer.
- C. Original receipts must be kept for each purchase.
- D. If clubs are receiving funds through PayPal, it is important to provide a copy of the deposits to the treasurer to maintain with club financial records.

Section 7.2: It is the responsibility of the Club Manager(s) and the Treasurer to develop a plan for keeping track of purchases, receipts, and any statements from the PayPal account. This plan should be documented in writing and provided to the County Extension Office.

Section 7.3: There are to be absolutely NO PERSONAL PURCHASES. If this occurs within a club, the County Extension Agent, 4-H Specialist, and the District Extension Administrator need to be notified immediately.

SECTION 8: MONTHLY AND ANNUAL FINANCIAL REVIEW

Section 8.1: On a monthly basis the club/group should reconcile all bank accounts.

Section 8.2: In the case there is an issue, they must bring it to the county agent immediately.

Section 8.3: The club/group treasurer is to provide a monthly financial report, including all necessary documentation, at the club/group meeting for review and approval.

Section 8.4: County offices should receive an updated club treasurer's report each month.

Section 8.5: The club manager and treasurer should have a plan for retaining the clubs bank statements.

Section 8.6: A financial review will be a mandatory part of the Texas 4-H Club Chartering Process and will be required as an upload on 4-H Connect.

Section 8.7: Agents will need to review each of the clubs financial review and sign it before it is uploaded to 4-H Connect.

SECTION 9: 4-H FUND RAISING POLICY

The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service encourages local club fund-raising because these funds help to add enrichment to 4-H programs. The only restriction to 4-H fund-raising is that 4-H clubs and/or county programs may not accept United Way type funds if the local United Way management rules state that "if you accept United Way funds you may not raise additional funds." *Counties or 4-H clubs accepting United Way type funds should only accept these funds if an agreement is reached between the county 4-H program or 4-H Club and United Way that specifically allows for the raising of money in addition to that received from United Way.*

Although few restrictions are applied to local 4-H fund-raising activities, always keep in mind that 4-H has an image and reputation to uphold. Certain activities may be perfectly acceptable in one community, while being taboo in another. As a general guideline, 4-H should never be connected with any activity which is illegal or which is contrary to moral standards of the community. The amount of funds raised should correspond to the amount of the projected budget. Money raised for awards and recognition should be kept in line with proper youth development principles. (ie: developing a budget that includes \$25,000 worth of awards is not necessary to properly recognize youth)

County Extension faculty must be notified regarding any fund raising done in the name of 4-H. Any club/group raising money in the name of 4-H must be chartered through the county Extension office.

SECTION 10: STATE SALES TAX EXEMPTION

Currently, all Texas 4-H clubs/groups are required, by Texas law, to pay state sales tax on any purchases of goods, equipment, and supplies purchased. The only exception to this rule is if a 4-H club/group has applied for, and received, a Texas Sales and Use Tax Permit through the Texas Comptroller of Accounts Office in Austin, Texas. A 4-H club/group is not allowed to use the County Government or other entities Texas Sales and Use Tax Permit to purchase goods, equipment, and supplies. If a 4-H club/group has acquired a Texas Sales and Use Tax Permit on its own then the 4-H club/group is legally responsible for filing all required monthly, quarterly, or yearly documentation directly to the Texas Comptroller of Accounts.

The use and granting of a 4-H Club/Group 501(c)(3) status through Texas 4-H, Inc. only applies to the EXEMPTION OF FEDERAL INCOME TAX, and NOT state sales tax.

Sales Tax Tip: In many cases when only a few purchases are being made each year, it is much easier to pay the Texas sales tax, than applying for and maintaining required documentation and filings. For more information about Texas state sales tax, please refer to the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts sales tax website at: www.window.state.tx.us/taxinfo/sales/.

SECTION 11: CLUB/GROUP BYLAWS AND FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

Section 11.1: All clubs/organizations and counties must have a set of by-laws that include provisions for receiving and disbursing funds and the dissolution of club/organization assets if the club/organization disbands. All assets, fiscal and property, go to the county 4-H Program. An example of an approved dissolution clause is stated here:

- *“Upon the disbandment of the club, all real property, including money, equipment and land, shall become the property of the County 4-H Program for care and disposition. The last official duty of the club’s manager shall be to effect the transfer of club property and to turn over club records to the county Extension agent.”*

Texas 4-H Financial Review Form to be completed annually for all 4-H clubs/groups.



TEXAS 4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM ANNUAL CLUB/GROUP FINANCIAL REPORT

All chartered 4-H clubs/group under the Texas 4-H Youth Development Program must undergo a complete financial review each year in order to continue being chartered and recognized as an official 4-H club/group. This form should be completed and submitted to the County Extension Office by September 30th of each year. The financial review should be conducted annually based on the period of September 1st to August 31st. Members of the review team should be adults knowledgeable of basic bookkeeping/banking skills and NOT be affiliated with the club/group.

Name of 4-H Club/Group _____ Year _____

Account Type(s) Checking Account Savings Account Other: _____

Club/Group EIN _____

Name of Financial Institution(s):

ANNUAL FINANCIAL REVIEW

	<i>Amount</i>
Balance on hand (September 1 st)	\$ _____
Total income for year	<i>(add)</i> \$ _____
Total expenses for year	<i>(subtract)</i> \$ _____
Balance on hand (August 31 st)	<i>(total)</i> \$ _____

CHECKLIST FOR REVIEWERS

- Monthly Financial Reports are complete.
- All income is properly recorded.
- All expenses are properly recorded and documented.
- Bank statements were reviewed by Club Manager and Treasurer.
- Bank checkbook ledger is reconciled.

List any expenses without receipts and/or any receipts that raise questions/concerns.

Date	Check # or Debt Card Entry	Payee	Expense (list item)	Reason/Concern

Other Comments

We, the undersigned, have examined the financial records of the above named club/group and found them to be:

- In order.
- In order, but in need of better organization or record keeping.
- Not in order.

Suggestions for improvement

Date review was conducted _____

Members of Review Team

Reviewer's Name _____	Title _____	Signature _____
Reviewer's Name _____	Title _____	Signature _____
Reviewer's Name _____	Title _____	Signature _____

Extension Agent Review & Certification

I, the undersigned, Extension Agent have reviewed this financial review of the above mentioned 4-H club/group and certify that all concerns, recommendations, or approval has been addressed and is acting in sound financial practices to continue being chartered as part of Texas 4-H.

Agent' Name _____ Title _____ Signature _____

Attachment 1: Club Assets

Please list any material assets that the 4-H club/group owns which has a value of more than \$50. Assets are any property the 4-H club/groups owns and/or uses. These will vary based on each 4-H club/group. Example: a shooting sports club may own archery equipment whereas a livestock club may own scales for weighing projects.

Because these items were purchased by (or donated to) the 4-H club/group, it's important to list and account for them along with any funds in the 4-H club/group treasury.

Please use the table below to list any assets. This information should be included with the *Annual 4-H Club/Group Financial Review* form.

Description of Asset	Model Number <i>(if applicable)</i>	Serial Number <i>(if applicable)</i>	Estimated Value	Person Responsible for Asset