

4-H Club Treasurer's Book

Name of club	
Treasurer's name	County
School or community	4-H year
Club project(s)	

The 4-H club treasurer does the following things.

- Handles club funds carefully
- Attends club meetings regularly
- Helps club members design an annual club budget
- Keeps complete and accurate records
- · Transacts club business and pays club bills promptly
- Makes a treasury report at every meeting. (If the treasurer is unable to attend a meeting, she or he gives the report to another member to announce.)
- Provides a year-end report to the club membership
- Submits requested financial records/reports to the local Extension office and county 4-H Leaders Association

If it is appropriate, some of these jobs may be assigned to other members and/or leaders.

It is very important to remember that money raised by or donated to 4-H must be spent on 4-H. It is not legal to raise or accept money in the name of 4-H and then use it for other purposes.

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The following materials were helpful in preparation of this publication.

- 4-H Club Treasurer's Record Book, 4-H 1203, Michigan State University (revised
- 4-H Club Officer Handbook, 4-H 035, Oregon State University (reprinted July 2001)
- 4-H Reporter, 4-H 037 (PNW 325), Oregon State University (reprinted July 2000)
- Budget and Financial Report, 4-H 0353R, Oregon State University (reprinted July 2001)
- Risk Management materials developed by Susan Busler, Extension agent, Lane County; Pamela Olsen, Extension agent, Yamhill County; and Tammy Skubinna, Extension agent, Benton County.

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Congratulations on being chosen club treasurer!

The treasurer has important duties and responsibilities. 4-H groups must have someone who keeps track of money that is collected or earned, someone who does the banking, and someone who pays the bills. Those who handle group funds are learning and using valuable life skills.

List below the names of all bank accounts, account numbers, and branch locations of accounts for the club.

Account name	Number	Branch location
Account name	Number	Branch location
Account name	Number	Branch location

List below the name(s) of the individual(s) authorized to sign checks or withdraw funds.



Planning for success—some things the club must decide

What kind of treasury?

A group may choose a cash treasury or choose to create an account with a bank. If the total amount of club money is less than \$25 per year, a cash treasury may work best; if more than \$25, the club needs to open a bank account.

Where to keep the cash?

Use a small, strong container or box with a good, tight lid. Keep the box in a safe place between meetings or bank visits. An accurate ledger is a **must**, especially with a cash treasury (see the Club Treasury Ledger, page 12).

Never mix personal money with club funds.

What about a bank account?

A club account should be a low- or no-cost checking account. When the account first is opened, use the county 4-H Leaders Association tax identification number. **Do not use a member or leader social security number!** You can get the tax identification number from your county Extension office or 4-H agent.

Also, use the Extension office address for your bank statements. They will forward the original to you each month.

Can there be a club savings account?

Groups should use their money within 2 years of the time it was earned. Fund-raising activities should be for a specific purpose decided on before the event. Open a savings account only if you have a special circumstance, such as a very big project that takes more than 1 year to complete.

What if the club disbands?

All clubs must create and write down a statement of where their club's money and possessions are to go if the club disbands. Many counties require this statement to be on file in the county Extension office. Clubs may have their assets go to the county 4-H Leaders Association or the Oregon 4-H Foundation. Funds raised and properties acquired in the name of 4-H must continue to be used for 4-H, even if the original club disbands.





What if a club divides?

It is up to the good judgment of the county 4-H staff to decide how a dividing club splits its money. Some suggestions are to use the club treasury as if the club closed, or to divide the money according to the number of members in each of the two parts. How to split a treasury in a fair way depends on each situation.

An annual club budget

Near the beginning of the club year, a portion of a club meeting should be dedicated to budget planning (see the Budget Worksheet, page 10). There are two examples of simple budgets below.

Budget #1

Cookie Crazy Cooking 4-H Club

Expected expenses:

Refreshments for seven meetings at \$5/per meeting ____\$ 35.00

Income needed: \$35.00

Six members pay dues of \$1 each for seven meetings ____\$ 42.00

Expected balance at the end of the year _____\$ 7.00

Budget #2

Many Moos 4-H Livestock Club

Expected expenses:	
1. Transportation to Judging events	\$ 65.00
2. Thank-you stationery and postage	12.50
3. Door prizes for meetings	
4. Purchase of complimentary County Fair passes	
for donors and parents	20.00
5. Community Service Food Basket expense	40.00
6. Purchase of decoration supplies for County Fair	50.00
7. Purchase of animal bedding for County Fair	100.00
8. Banking costs	12.50
Total expected expense	\$ 370.00
Possible income sources:	
1. Two car washes	\$ 150.00
2. Donations from sponsors	100.00
3. Food booth at Horse Show	120.00
Total possible income	
Expected year-end balance	\$ 0

Getting ready to do the job

From the past Treasurer

Review the financial records of every group/club every year and always before a new person takes on the responsibilities of treasurer. The review keeps everyone up to date and avoids any rumors of wrongdoing. The incoming treasurer should work on the review with the outgoing officers. See the 4-H Financial Review Checklist on page 14.

What to do after the review

If the group has a cash treasury, the money box and ledger shall be handed over to the new treasurer (see "Keeping the records straight," page 6).

If the group has a bank account, the outgoing treasurer hands over all financial information to the new treasurer. The new treasurer needs to visit the bank where club funds are deposited. Tell the people at the bank about the new officers, and sign the appropriate forms so checks are written with the correct signatures.

Bank accounts—some suggestions

Some banks offer free checking for nonprofit groups such as 4-H clubs. Ask about free checking.

What about checks?

Bank checks usually are printed with the club name and are numbered. Some clubs use only a handful of checks a year; so, over time, incoming treasurers might overlook reordering checks and run out. The incoming treasurer needs to make sure there are enough blank checks for the payout needs of the club.

Who signs the checks?

Ask for a bank account that has more than one authorized signer. This is handy when someone is out of town or when people leave the group. There are some accounts that issue checks requiring two signatures on the check before the check is valid.

If your group chooses to have an account with more than one authorized signer or requires two signatures for a check



to be valid, be sure the people who are signing are from two unrelated families.

Writing checks?

If you haven't written checks before, ask the bank personnel to show you how to do it. Always use ink. Always follow the format the bank shows you.

It's best not to write checks to "cash." Use a specific name. Checks made out to "cash" can be processed by anyone. If there has to be a check for "cash," make sure the record includes an explanation why this was done.



What about misspellings and other mistakes?

Always go slow and be deliberate about filling out checks. Banks are reluctant to take checks with crossed out numbers or words. If you make a mistake, write VOID in large letters across the face of the bad check. **Don't throw it away**. Place the "voided" check in the folder, box, or envelope where you keep the group records. Be sure to write "void" in the check register and in the ledger. Add a quick explanation in the ledger about the "voided" check so the mistake will be understood when the records are reviewed at the end of the year.

Keeping the records straight—ledgers and receipts

4-H is "owned" by the public. It is not owned by individuals the way a company may be. Any money the club receives from donations, dues, bake sales, or other fund-raising events is owned by 4-H, not by any one member or leader of the club.

Public ownership requires the highest standard of accountability and integrity. Money must be handled carefully and accurately. This applies if a group has 25 cents or \$2,500 in the treasury. The ledger is a tool to help do the job right.



What is a ledger?

A ledger is a record of all funds earned, owned, or spent. The person in the group who has the job of handling the club's money must have some kind of ledger. The ledger may be a notebook, a check register, or a piece of paper. There is a blank ledger page on page 12 of this book.

A ledger page should have enough space to write the date of every transaction, the amount of money involved, whether it was income or expense, who/what the transaction was for, and the balance after calculating the change. Keep receipts to back up the information written in the ledger.

Won't the bank keep the records?

Bank statements, cancelled checks, and deposit slips are only part of the club's financial records. The reports from the bank do not tell where money came from nor tell specific information about how it is spent. Cash transactions have no record except the receipts the treasurer writes. Also, banks make mistakes.

The treasurer should "do the math" in the ledger and check register. Then, the treasurer needs to compare totals to the bank statement. This is called "balancing the account." Do this every month unless there have been no changes.

Beware: if your bank account has a cost, those fees are considered an expense against the total even when there are no other income or expense changes. If the treasurer's balance and the bank's balance are not the same, contact the bank and go over the records together.

What is a receipt?

A receipt can be a sales slip from a store when you buy something for the club, or it can be a slip of paper the treasurer writes telling who or what brought money into the treasury. Ask for a receipt whenever there is an expense, and write a receipt whenever there is income.

More about receipts

When someone gives money to the club, the treasurer writes a receipt. Reasons to write a receipt might include payment of enrollment/insurance money, donations given, money turned in from a fundraiser, or any other time money comes into the club treasury. (If your club members pay regular dues at meetings, it is easier to keep a checklist than to write several receipts for small amounts. Work out a simple system with the other officers and members to show paid dues.)

If the club writes only a handful of receipts in a year's time, use plain paper. If the club often receives money into the treasury, consider buying a receipt book. Basic receipt books are available in the stationery section at most stores. The NCR type is the easiest to use. Or, you can use the "Income Record" form on page 13 to receipt money.

Writing and keeping receipts is an important part of the treasurer's job.



Making reports—one for every meeting

Everyone in the club/group should know who is responsible for recording finances. If there is no formally elected treasurer, make it clear who is handling club funds.

The balance in the treasury should be announced at every meeting. If club money was spent or funds came into the treasury between meetings, these amounts should be announced either out loud (orally) or with a written account. A report may group several items under one topic (for example, three to four donations) with only one total announced. Written reports are needed when there are a very large number of transactions listed.

Sample oral treasurer's report

"The Furry Friends 4-H Club was given a \$5 donation by Charlie's Pet World last month. We spent \$3 on birthday cards for two members, and we spent \$4 on craft materials. The balance in the treasury is now \$18."

End-of-year review of financial records

It should be club/group policy always to review the financial records whenever the year changes and when responsibility is transferred from one person to another. This practice protects both the outgoing and incoming treasurers.

Why do a review?

The purpose of the end-of year review is to check how the group is doing financially. The incoming treasurer needs to have an accurate balance when beginning his or her financial recordkeeping.

The review is a tool to help all club members learn valuable life skills about handling money in an accurately documented way. The review is **not** an evaluation for theft or fraud.

So the review isn't checking for mistakes?

The methods used to record income and expense and the accuracy of that recording are the focus of the review. If receipts are missing or ledger entries are incomplete, the review is a time to note the oversights and make suggestions.

If accounting mistakes are discovered, it is the job of those reviewing the records to help get them corrected—not to lay



blame on the recorder. The goal of the review is to learn the exact amount of money the group has, make sure records are complete, and offer help so future records are accurate.

The review committee

The club/group president selects a small committee of three to five people. The person who leads the committee should be the same person who had the responsibility for recording and keeping the financial information (that is, the treasurer). If the past treasurer is unavailable, the president or vice president may head the committee. It is helpful to the new treasurer to be a member of the reviewing group. See the 4-H Financial Review Checklist on page 14.

Reports to the county 4-H Leaders Association

All clubs must submit appropriate financial records and reports to their county 4-H Leaders Association on an annual basis. The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and the State of Oregon require these reports. If a club does not continue, the club bank account needs to be closed, and financial accounting must be submitted to the Extension office.

Appropriate records and reports for each 4-H club to submit to its county 4-H Leaders Association include:

- An End-of-year Report for each club checking and/or savings account (page 15)
- Copies of all club Budget and Financial Report forms (page 11)
- Copies of all Club Treasury Ledger pages (page 12)
- Copies of all bank statements for the year under review, plus a copy of the statement for the first month of the current year.
- Copies of the 4-H Club Inventory Record (page 16)

Check with your county Extension office for complete information on needed reports and deadlines.



Budget Worksheet		
Club name	Year	
Expected expenses		Amount
	Total expected expenses	
Income sources		Amount
	Total expected income	



Budget and Financial Report

Complete and submit this sheet to your club secretary for

each club activity that involves money. Club ______ Date of financial report _____ Activity _____ Date of activity _____ Budgeted **Actual Income** income income Total Budgeted Actual expenses **Expenses** expenses Total



Club Treasury Ledger

date Opening balance		
Received from or paid to: (Give name and for what)	Amount (Add income/ subtract expense)	Balance
		Received from or paid to: (Give name and for what) Received from or paid to: (Give name and for what) Amount (Add income/subtract expense)

Closing date _____ Closing balance ____

Income and Expenditure Request Form

Complete the appropriate part of this form and submit it to the club treasurer every time money is received and every time a bill or invoice needs to be paid.

Cneck request		
Please write a check in the	e amount of \$	
Payable to		
Address		
City	State	ZIP
For (item)	(Attach invoice or receipt)	
	(Attach invoice or receipt)	
Fund to be charged		
Activity or purpose of the	expenditure	
Date submitted	Requested by	
		Signature
To be completed by the	Treasurer:	
Approved by (signature)		
Date	Check number	
Income Record		
Amount received	Received by	
Received from		
Credit to	fund, for	
Date	Receipt number	



4-H Financial Review Checklist

Clu	ıb name Date		
Ge	neral information		
1.	Is the treasury held in cash or in a bank account?		
2.	Who holds the cash or what bank carries the account?		
3.	If there is a bank account, what is the account number?		
Re	cord keeping information	Yes	No
4.	Are incoming checks endorsed "For Deposit Only"?		
5.	Does all income and expense have a matching receipt?		
6.	Are all transactions promptly recorded (with explanations)?		
7.	Have all ledger entries used accurate calculations?		
8.	Does the bank statement balance agree with the balance in the		
	Treasurer's book?		
9.	Has there been a financial report at every meeting?		
10.	Have all checks been signed properly according to club policy?		
11.	Were any checks written to "cash"?		
	If yes , was an explanation given in the ledger?		
12.	Are all cancelled checks included in the end report, including "voided" checks?		
13.	Are printed, pre-numbered receipt forms used for receipt of cash?		
14.	Are bank statements and deposit slips included in the end report?		
15.	Are all checks and/or cash kept in a safe place?		
16.	Are checks returned by the bank for insufficient funds investigated and follow-up maintained?	l	
17.	Have all financial reports been completed and returned to the Extension office by the required date?		
18.	Have all group/club financial information and materials been given to the new treasurer?	1 🗆	
wei	Describe below any special circumstances for how club finances re handled.		
En	d-of-year Review Committee:	-	
	Signature Signature	Signature	
	Date		

End-of-year Report

Use this sheet (with additional sheets of paper, if needed) to submit an end-of-year financial report to your county 4-H Leaders Association. This report of your club's total account is required for tax records.

Club	Date of finar	ncial report _	
Opening date	Opening balance		
Income (received from whom and for	what)		Income
		Total	
Expenses (paid to whom and for what	:)		Expenses
		Total	
Closing date	Closing balance		

To calculate your closing balance

Start with your opening balance, add all your income, and subtract all your expenses. This gives you your closing balance. This should agree with your bank records.

Your closing balance becomes your opening balance for the next year.

4-H Club Inventory Record

If your group acquires materials, equipment, property, or other assets, keep an inventory of them all and report them on this form. This inventory is the property of the 4-H club, not any one individual in 4-H. Use this sheet (with additional sheets of paper, if needed) to submit a 4-H Club Inventory Record to your county 4-H Leaders Association.

	Description	Value
Equipment		\$
Equipment		\$
Equipment		\$
Supplies		\$
Supplies		\$
Other		\$
	Total value of assets	\$
4-H club as	set disbursement instructions	
	has discussed the disbursement of our assets and	
	all money and material assets will be disbursed in	
the following	manner upon the dissolution of our 4-H club:	
Check wi	th your county Extension office for approved disburs	ement options.

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