

## **Fundraising**

4-H clubs may choose to finance their activities through their own fund-raising activities. Fundraising will be done for the good of the total group, consistent with the county 4-H fundraising policies and to support 4-H activities. Fund raising should not be the main focus of group activities nor exclude any individual from participation. Clubs are expected to support the financial needs of the total group and assist with participant costs in county, state, national, and international programs whenever possible. Soliciting funds from statewide businesses or organizations should be coordinated with the Montana 4-H Foundation. Fund solicitation by clubs should be kept to a minimum and undertaken only after consultation with the County Extension agent responsible for 4-H and the County 4-H Council. To maintain good will, repeated calls upon local supporters should be avoided.

4-H fundraising events and activities, including raffles, must have a clear educational goal or purpose and should be primarily for the benefit of 4-H members. Any event sponsored for the purpose of raising funds, should be limited to the support the educational mission of 4-H. For any event or activity involving entry fees, raffle ticket sales, registration, etc., and where funds are collected, appropriate financial management practices will be followed. Detailed accounting for income and expenses following the steps outlined in the Montana 4-H Treasurer's Book is required. A financial report must be given to the county Extension agent within 60 days after the conclusion of the event. If such reports are not filed, an investigation will be conducted.

Funds from 4-H events may not be divided up amongst individual club members or otherwise used for personal, rather than 4-H, related expenses. For official 4-H events for which funds are raised, the revenue must be placed in an account to be used by the sponsoring club or 4-H entity. Contributions earmarked by a donor for a particular individual are treated, in effect, as a gift to the designated individual and are not deductible as charitable contributions.

Casino-like games of chance, lotteries, and betting activities involving money do not support the mission of 4-H and should not be engaged in.

## **Bingo**

Bingo is allowed in 4-H but is considered gambling in the state of Montana and as such must be registered and approved through the State of Montana – Department of Justice: Gambling Control Division. State Gaming Office Guidelines must be followed.

## **Fifty-Fifty Fundraising**

Montana 4-H does not condone nor support 50/50 type fund-raisers or raffles. These fund raisers are not to be conducted under the auspices of 4-H nor associated with the 4-H name and emblem.

## **Raffles**

The purpose of conducting raffles under the name of 4-H should be to support the educational programs of 4-H. Funds raised under the name of 4-H belong to 4-H and must be used only for the 4-H program and its participants. As a guideline, 4-H clubs should be conducting raffles only where a product is awarded to the winner and not as cash. Products should be of good quality and should represent the organization well. The cost of raffle tickets cannot be deducted by individuals as charitable contribution to 4-H as raffles are considered a form of gambling.

For non-profit organizations like 4-H, there is no formal state permit required to conduct raffles. 4-H groups wanting to hold a raffle should check with their local County Commissioners' or Tribal Council office to comply with county/reservation requirements. Some officials will require an accounting of the raffles, while others will not. Be sure to ask if there are any regulations about 4-H youth (minors) selling raffle tickets. Neither non-profit nor for-profit groups can solicit outside the state, but they can go across county lines.