What is the Co-op Growing Leader Program?

The Co-op Growing Leader program was implemented in 2023 to help grow the 4-H Alberta membership by covering the cost of club fees for new members to a maximum of $200 each.

In order to encourage the participation of new members, the Co-op Growing Leaders Program will also cover 50% of the cost of club fees (to a maximum of $100) for members returning to the program for their second year.

When does the application open?

The Co-op Growing Leader program application opens the first business day after Labour Day.

Who is eligible for funding?

You must be a new member with no prior 4-H experience, or be returning to the Co-op Growing Leader Program for a second year.

17 Co-op locations throughout Alberta have generously sponsored the program. Each Co-op location will be funding members within their operating area. If your club falls within the operating area of one of the following Co-op locations, you are eligible to apply:

Arrowwood Co-op	Central Alberta Co-op	Cornerstone Co-op	Irma Co-op
Lakeland Co-op	Lloydminster and District Co-op	Neerlandia Co-op	New Horizon Co-op
North Central Co-op	North Corridor Co-op	Peace Country Co-op	Pembina West Co-op
Pincher Creek Co-op	South Country Co-op	Vegreville Co-op	Westview Co-op
Wild Rose Co-op			

How can members access information about the program and apply?

All fund development programs are communicated to the community via the below methods:

- Website:
  - 4hab.com > Resources > Parent Center

- Scoop Newsletter
  - Scoop Newsletters are emailed to members monthly and mid-monthly. Information regarding the program will be included immediately preceding the start-up date of the program and continue until immediately following the program closing.

- Social Media
  - Social media posts (including Facebook and Instagram) once the program is open, reminders throughout the program duration, and reminder that the program is about to close

- Eblasts
  - EBlast emails will be sent to all members through the marketing team with information about the program and link to the application once the program is open.

I've submitted my application. What now?

The 4-H Alberta Fund Development Team will review applications weekly.

Club Leader Emails

The leader of each club with applicants from that week will be contacted via phone call (if new leader) and/or email.

The leader email will include:

- the names and level of the applicants (Cleaver/Junior/Intermediate)
- The **proposed** fees (based on Provincial Fees)
    - $120 new Junior/Intermediate
    - $30 Cleaver
    - $60 Second Year Returning Junior/Intermediate
    - $15 Second Year Returning Cleaver

- Indicate whether the applicants are new or returning members

Action Required from the Leaders:

- Confirm that the listed applicants are in fact new members of their club.

- Confirm **TOTAL** cost of club fees to be reimbursed for the applicants including Club, District, Region, Provincial and any Project Fees.

- Whether the **club** will be covering the cost of registration fees for the member ***(and the club will be reimbursed)***

  Or

  Whether the **member** will pre-pay their fees up-front to the club ***(and the member will be reimbursed)***

  We recognize that clubs operate with varying financial capacities. Therefore, the decision regarding who will be reimbursed for fees is at the discretion of each individual club.

Co-op Location Report

Each Co-op Location will receive a bi-weekly report of applicants that have applied in their operating area.

The Co-ops will review the list and approve the members.

Member Emails

Once the 4-H Alberta Development Team has received the approval from each Co-op, a “Co-op Growing Leaders Approval” email will be sent to the member informing them of their approval and welcoming them to 4-H Alberta.

When can I expect my reimbursement?

All payments for the Co-op Growing Leaders Program are sent to the accounting department in December to be processed, regardless of whether the club or family will be reimbursed.

All payments must be disbursed prior to the new year.

Payments to families will be sent by 4-H Alberta's online payment system Plooto to the parent’s email address.