

BY-LAWS
OF
RACINE COUNTY 4-H ORGANIZATION, INC.

Article I - NAME

The name of this organization shall be Racine County 4-H Organization, Inc.

Article II - PURPOSE

The purpose of this organization is to encourage young people to advance their leadership skills and increase their knowledge through educational programs and opportunities within their own communities through 4-H clubs, projects, activities, and county events.

Article III - MEMBERSHIP

Membership in the Racine County 4-H Organization, Inc., shall consist of the Racine County 4-H Adult Leaders Association, Racine County 4-H Jr. Leaders Association and 4-H Club members. The Racine County 4-H year is defined as October 1-September 30 for the purpose of definition of these policies.

It is the policy of Racine County 4-H Organization, Inc. that no eligible student, client, or participant shall be denied admission to or participation in any of the benefits, programs or courses offered or sponsored by Racine County 4-H Organization, Inc., nor be denied admission to any facility owned or operated by Racine County 4-H Organization, Inc., or any of its divisions or units because of that person's race, color, creed, religion, sex, national origin, disability, ancestry, age, sexual orientation, pregnancy, marital or parental status.

Upon dissolution of any Racine County 4-H Club, the General Leaders and Club Board Officers shall after paying all liabilities of the club, dispose of all assets of the 4-H Club by donating them to any other Racine County 4-H Club or to the Racine County 4-H Endowment Fund. The UW-Extension office and Racine County 4-H Board of Directors need to be notified of said dissolution and asset disposal in writing within 60 days.

Article IV. - BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEMBERSHIP AND DUTIES

Section 1. Board Membership

The Board of Directors shall consist of the Adult Leaders Association Elected Officers (Past President, President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer) one (1) Adult Fair Board Representative, five (5) Adult Directors at Large Members, the Jr. Leaders Association Elected Officers (President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer), two (2) Junior Fair Board Representatives, three (3) Junior Directors at Large, Historian and Reporter. With the exception of the President, each Board of Director member is entitled to one vote. In case of a tie vote, the President will cast a vote to break the tie. The following officers will be appointed by the Board of Directors in consultation with Extension Staff: Historian and Reporter.

Section 2. Duties

Duties of the Board of Directors shall be:

1. To develop policy and give direction to the countywide program.
2. To attend all monthly Racine County 4-H meetings.
3. To attend all monthly Board of Directors meetings unless an excuse is called in to the UW-Extension Office or President prior to the meeting.
4. To attend county, district and/or state leadership development events.
5. To create and service local 4-H groups, clubs, and activities.
6. To provide program direction in cooperation with the UW-Extension, Racine County Office.
7. To increase and provide educational opportunities to youth of Racine County through projects, exchanges, county workshops, social interactions, exhibits, fairs, etc.
8. To develop citizenship and leadership in youth of Racine County.
9. To determine programs and activities as they relate to countywide functions.
10. To coordinate proposed activities and events into a yearly calendar.
11. To review budget requests from program area committees and develop an annual budget.
12. To appoint program area committees by the consent of those appointed.
13. To actively serve on at least one county committee (Fair Board representatives are exempt).
14. To approve financial transactions as they may be presented.

15. To exercise the option to remove a board member who has had three unexcused absences from the Board of Directors meetings within a 4-H year and appoint a replacement member.

Article V. – STANDING COUNTY COMMITTEES

Section 1- Three standing committees take on the task of organizing, making decisions, and carrying out the events for recognition, awards, and scholarships for 4-H members and adult volunteer leaders.

1. Standing Committees Involved
 - a. Scholarship Committee
 - b. Awards Committee
 - c. Recognition Celebration Committee
2. Membership to each committee
 - a. Each club is to identify one youth and one adult to serve on its assigned standing committee(s).
 - b. Club membership is for a three (3) year term, after which the club will rotate to a new committee.
 - c. Year terms will begin on November 1 through October 30 of the following year.
3. As additional clubs or additional standing committees are formed, rotations will be reviewed and adjusted.

Section 2 Finance Committee

1. Members are the Adult Leaders Association treasurer, the Jr. Leaders Association treasurer, two members of the Board of Directors, and the Extension Office staff as a non-voting member(s).
2. Duties are to build the annual budget and oversee the annual audit.

Section 3. Racine County 4-H Endowment Fund

1. The Fund's purpose shall be to support, expand, and promote the 4-H program in Racine County.
2. The earnings from fund raising, gifts, bequests and/or Investment earnings are to be used for innovative and educational programs that strengthen and expand the 4-H program in Racine

County as recommended by the Endowment Committee and approved by the Board of Directors.

3. If the assets of the fund total less than \$25,000, based on the value as of September 30th of the year, no earnings from the fund will be withdrawn or disbursed.
4. The earnings of this Fund are not to be used for general operating expenses of the 4-H Leaders Association.
5. An Endowment Committee shall be appointed by the Board of Directors consisting of two (2) 4-H adult members, two (2) members of the Board of Directors (one youth and one adult) and one (1) youth at large. The UW-Extension 4-H Youth Development Educator shall be an ex-officio member of the Committee.
6. Youth members of the Endowment Committee are to be appointed annually, by the Board of Directors, for a 1 year term. Youth may be reappointed for one additional term.
7. Adult members are to be appointed by the 4-H Leaders Board of Directors for a two-year term. Adult members may be reappointed for one additional term. The Adult representative of the Board of Directors will be appointed annually, by the Board of Directors.
8. Role of the Endowment Committee:
 - a. The Committee will assist the Leaders Association in creating an awareness of the Endowment Fund and the Innovative Education Projects Grant.
 - b. The Endowment Committee will direct the solicitation of funds through fund raising, donations of cash or property from various sources including bequests and memorials.
 - c. The committee has set up grant proposal guidelines and will annually invite grant proposal requests from 4-H members, 4-H Leaders, 4-H clubs and 4-H committees. They will review grant requests and recommend projects to be funded from the earnings, to the Board of Directors for approval.
 - d. The fiscal year of this Fund shall be the same as the 4-H Leaders Association, January 1 - December 31.

- e. The Endowment Committee may recommend the employment of a Fund manager, or professional counselor as it deems to be the best interest of the Fund.
- f. The endowment committee will determine the value of the available grant funds based on the endowment funds total value on September 30th each calendar year. No more than 5 percent of the assets may be distributed annually.
- g. The endowment committee will utilize a moderate conservative profile for fund investment.

Article VI. - QUORUM

A quorum shall consist of the members present at any business meeting.

Article VII. - AMENDMENTS

Section 1. The by-laws may be amended by a majority of the vote of the total members present at the regular Leaders Association meeting, provided notice of such amendment shall have been given at the previous meeting.

Section 2. A committee may be appointed to revise the by-laws if either a majority vote at a meeting of the Leaders Association or 2/3 vote of the Board of Directors decides that the by-laws require revision. The requirements for adoption of a revised set of by-laws shall be the same as in the case of an amendment.

Article VIII. - DISSOLUTION

In case of dissolution of this Organization, all assets are to be assigned to a non-profit youth organization(s) in Racine County. The youth organization(s) to which disbursement(s) is/are to be made will be decided by a majority vote of the Board of Directors of the Organization pursuant to 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

BY-LAWS RACINE COUNTY 4-H ORGANIZATION, INC.

The by-laws are hereby accepted at the regular meeting of the Racine County 4-H Organization, Inc. Board of Directors as amended this

_____ day of _____, 20__

By-Laws Committee: _____
Leaders Association President

Leaders Association Vice President

Jr. Leaders Association President

Jr. Leaders Association Vice President

Member at Large

Passed BOD 8/96
Passed Leaders Association 8/96
Revised passed BOD 5/98
Revised passed Leaders Association 6/98
Revised passed BOD 4/2000
Revised passed Leaders Association 4/2000
Revised passed BOD 5/2/2002
Revised passed Leaders Association 5/28/02
Revised passed Leaders Association 10/25/04
Revised passed by BOD & Leaders Association 4/2006
Revised passed by BOD _____
Passed Leaders Associations June 25, 2007

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