

Articles of Organization of _____ Council of Massachusetts

Article 1: These Articles of Organization hereby revokes any prior Articles of Organization or similar organizing document adopted by the organization.

Article 2: The name of the Organization shall be the _____ Council. The organization shall hereinafter be referred to as council. The council serves in an advisory capacity to the 4-H program. The council shall be chartered by the University of Massachusetts Extension and must adhere to all 4-H policy and procedures. Failure to do so will result in the charter being revoked.

Article 3: The council is organized exclusively for educational, scientific and charitable purposes, specifically to support the nonformal 4-H Youth Development educational experience through the University of Massachusetts Extension. The purpose of the council is to advise, advocate and assist in the planning, promotion, development, implementation and execution of 4-H programs under the direction of the University of Massachusetts Extension, through the local UMass Extension 4-H Educator. All final decisions regarding 4-H programs and policies are made by University of Massachusetts Extension.

Article 4: The membership will be comprised of 4-H volunteers, 4-H parents, and 4-H youth who have completed the volunteer application process, been successfully screened and appointed by the University of Massachusetts Extension. Each council member is entitled to vote. Violations of the 4-H Volunteer Code of Conduct are grounds for dismissal.

Article 5: Officers shall be elected by the membership of the council subject to the approval of the UMass Extension 4-H Educator. Officers shall not serve in their office more than three consecutive years, other than the Treasurer. Officers shall perform the duties prescribed for them according to the usual parliamentary procedures.

Article 6: No part of the net earnings of the council shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to its members, officers or other private persons, except that the club shall be authorized to make payments and distributions in furtherance of its purposes set forth in Article 3. No substantial part of the activities of the council shall be the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation and the council shall not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of or in opposition to any candidate for public office.

Article 7: Notwithstanding any other provision of these Articles of Organization, the council shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on by an organization exempt from Federal Income tax under section 501c (3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code.

Article 8: The fiscal year of the council shall end on June 30th. An annual financial report for the council will be presented to the University of Massachusetts Extension Office for a



**4-H Youth
Development Program**
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financial review by July 30th. A formal financial review of each council will be conducted per 4-H policies and procedures every 4-5 years and at any time there is a change in the volunteer who has signature authority on the council's bank account or similar financial account.

Article 9: In the event of termination or revocation of a charter for, or dissolution of this council, all of the principal, income, and assets shall be transferred and assigned, subject to approval of the Massachusetts 4-H Director, to a 4-H Advisory Group or the Massachusetts 4-H Foundation to be used to support future 4-H educational program efforts to include the formation of new 4-H clubs.

Article 10: The council shall generate its federal tax exempt status under section 501 c (3) of the Internal Revenue Code through a Group Exemption Number (GEN) to be issued to the University of Massachusetts and it shall undertake any action so required by the University and by Internal Revenue Service rules and procedures to ensure its inclusion in the GEN issued to the University. The council shall obtain an Employee Identification Number from the Internal Revenue Service irrespective of whether a bank account is maintained by the council. The council shall comply with requirements for and file with the Internal Revenue Service, annual information returns on the Form 990 series applicable to the council and the council shall file all other returns required by applicable law including Federal, State and local law. No consolidated Form 990 for subordinate organizations (i.e. councils) shall be prepared by the University of Massachusetts under the group exemption issued to it.

Article 11: The council shall meet a minimum of 3 times per year.

Article 12: It is the policy of University of Massachusetts Extension that all 4-H clubs, councils and acknowledged 4-H groups shall have equal opportunity and access to programs and activities.

Article 13: No amendment to these Articles of Organization shall be effective without the written consent of the State 4-H Program Director at the University of Massachusetts or such person as may be delegated such authority by the said 4-H Program Director. The council may adopt an addendum to these Articles of Organization as long as they do not contradict the provisions of this Constitution and have the written approval of the State 4-H Program Director or his/her designee.

Date Adopted:

Signature:

Printed Name:

Title:



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