

## Changes for 4-H Family Group Designations

(effective October 1, 2018)

For over a century, the Idaho 4-H program has empowered youth to come together in exploring a vast array of project topics and develop citizenship, leadership and communication/social skills, all in partnership with caring adult mentors. Besides developing life-long friendships, the opportunity to interact with peers outside the immediate family helps youth develop an understanding and respect for diverse perspectives – an essential skill for well-rounded personal growth.

While engagement through community, in-school or after-school club settings (involving five or members from no fewer than three families) has become the “gold seal” standard because it enables youth to fully develop all the life skills mentioned above, the Family Group option was designed to insure program accessibility for youth located in remote, sparsely populated regions of our state. Though the Family Group option provides access, it fails to fully generate all the benefits of the “club experience.” As such, Extension personnel should only approve this option in very limited situations (primarily due to geographical limitations).

If you approve use of the Family Group designation, be aware:

- Under Federal regulation, these groups cannot be chartered, as they do not meet the designation for an official club. Instead, any existing or new Family Groups must complete and submit a “**Name and Emblem Use Request Packet – 4-H Family Group**” (found on the State 4-H website) for local Extension approval. Each group must meet at least annually with local Extension personnel to review planning and outcomes to secure ongoing approvals.
- Family Groups are prohibited from engaging in any fundraising activities, and do not have 501(c)3 tax-exempt status. Any funds or gifts given to Family Groups are not tax-exempt.
- Family Groups are still required to submit annual financial reports/documents should they have any income (club dues, gifts, etc.) generated while operating under the 4-H name.

Furthermore, as of October 1, 2018 to come into compliance with Federal regulations, any previously chartered Family Groups will need to relinquish their charter to the local Extension personnel; all affiliation agreements through the University of Idaho for tax-exempt status will be voided.

### Transitioning to Club status:

Should an existing Family Group secure sufficient membership and wish to transition to a Club status, they will need to complete and submit the “**Charter Request Form – 4-H Clubs**” packet (see State 4-H website) to local Extension personnel for processing and approval.

Thank you in advance for your patience and support as we move forward to insure our Idaho 4-H protocols are in alignment with existing Federal regulations.