



## Marsh River Cooperative

# MEMBERSHIP & VOLUNTEER POLICY

OCT 26, 2016

### MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

Members in good standing receive:

- One vote at meetings of the membership
- An annual dividend payment proportional to purchases made at the cooperative, depending on the co-op's profits
- The opportunity to run for an open seat on the Board of Directors, after at least 6 months of membership

A member in good standing shall be defined as:

- A member who has paid all required fees to the cooperative
- A Consumer member who has purchased products or services from the cooperative
- A Producer member who has product available for sale in the cooperative in accordance with their contract/agreements AND who has fulfilled the requirement to work a minimum of four (4) hours a month at the Coop.<sup>1</sup>

Membership benefits begin upon initial purchase of at least one membership share, and continue so long as members remain members in good standing.

**CONSUMER MEMBERS** are persons, families, or entities who acquire a membership with the intent to purchase products through the cooperative, defined as follows:

- **Individual:** one person or entity
- **Family:** people who share the same physical address

**PRODUCER MEMBERS** are persons or entities who reside within a 10-mile radius of the Marsh River Cooperative and who undergo a juried review process to become members of the cooperative in order to provide goods for sale at the cooperative in one or more ways below:

- **Farmer:** grows food for distribution at the cooperative
- **Supplier:** purchases items for resale through the cooperative
- **Crafter:** creates products for resale through the cooperative

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<sup>1</sup> Volunteering can include staffing the store or other activities, such as serving on the board or a committee, helping organize events, or helping with marketing or communications.

**VOLUNTEERS** may be members or non-members. Volunteers are entitled to discounts as follows:

### 1) IN-STORE VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers who work a minimum of 2 consecutive hours in a store shift are entitled to a 10% discount during or immediately after they work a 2-hour shift. They “use or lose” the discount after their shift; there is no rain check on the discount for later. See FAQs<sup>2</sup>.

### 2) OUT-OF-STORE VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers who put in hours outside the store (eg. do bookkeeping, serve on the board or a committee, paint signs, help with promotion, organize events) will be entitled to collect a 10% one-time use coupon every month they volunteer at least 4 hours. The coupon will expire one month after the date on which it was issued.

**SENIORS** are persons aged 62 and older. Seniors receive a 5% discount on Senior Day (currently Wednesdays) whether or not they are members of the cooperative. Senior and volunteer discounts may be combined.

**CONTRIBUTORS** are persons or entities who donate funds or support to the cooperative without receiving a direct financial (or other) benefit.

**VENDORS** are persons, businesses, etc. from whom the cooperative buys product but who have no membership affiliation or equity with the cooperative.

## MEMBERSHIP FEES

### INDIVIDUAL CONSUMER MEMBERS and PRODUCER MEMBERS

- \$100.00 one-time membership share purchase
- \$15.00 annual fee

New members who pay their \$100.00 equity payment in full at time of sign-up will have the \$15.00 annual fee waived for their first year of membership. New members may select a one-year Payment Plan option to purchase their membership shares, payable as \$30.00 per quarter:

\$100.00 membership share purchase price  
+\$15.00 annual fee  
+\$5.00 administrative fee  
Total of \$120.00 (divided over 4 quarters = \$30.00 per quarter)

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<sup>2</sup> **What if a volunteer does a shift longer than 2 hours?** They still only get on 10% discount, during or immediately after their shift. **What if they work ten 2-hour shifts on ten different days in the same month?** They get the 10% discount on or immediately after their shift, every time.

## **FAMILY CONSUMER MEMBERS**

- \$150.00 one-time membership share purchase
- \$15.00 annual fee

New members who pay their \$150.00 equity payment in full at time of sign-up will have the \$15.00 annual fee waived for their first year of membership. New members may select a one-year Payment Plan option to purchase their membership shares, payable as \$42.50 per quarter:

\$150.00 membership share purchase price  
+\$15.00 annual fee  
+\$5.00 administrative fee  
Total of \$170.00 (divided over 4 quarters = \$42.50. per quarter)