

# OWNERSHIP F.A.Q.

## WHO CAN BE AN OWNER?

Anyone is welcome to become a Co-op owner. Ownership is voluntary and joining begins with filling out an application and contributing the first equity payment. Owners have the right to terminate their ownership by submitting an equity refund request and forfeiting ownership privileges.

## WHAT DOES OWNERSHIP MEAN?

Ownership means that you are one of more than 2,500 community members who have invested equity in the Co-op. This economic support is the keystone to our long-range development and growth.

## WHY BE AN OWNER?

You get a Co-op! A grocery store where you have a voice. Owners have the right to run for and elect the board of directors and to attend board meetings. We also offer exclusive sales promotions, coupons and special events to our owners.

## HOW DO I BECOME AN OWNER?

Anyone can become an owner of the Co-op by filling out a brief application and making your first equity payment. A full household share in the co-op is \$175. You can join us with an initial equity contribution of the par value of \$25\* using the annual payment plan or invest the full equity of \$175 all at once. Ask a staff member for more information at the store.

\*Please note: a \$5 processing fee will be applied on each equity payment.

## CAN MY EQUITY BE REFUNDED?

Owner equity is refundable subject to board approval and is an at-risk investment subordinate to business liabilities.

# THE VALUE OF EQUITY:

## Paying it Forward

### YOU SOW THE SEEDS:

Co-ops are supported by the equity of their owners. Most businesses take venture capital or loans to provide funds to grow whereas Co-ops are funded by a grassroots effort from the community. Equity investment allows us to make our store better for you!

### AND LOOK WHAT GROWS:

### YOU STEWARD THE CO-OP:

Your equity investment allows us to grow and thrive. We use equity to improve our store, invest in infrastructure and equipment and expand our product selection.

### YOU SUPPORT LOCAL ECONOMY SMALL FARMS & BUSINESSES:

The Co-op works to bring you local sustainable products to grow our region's economy. More than 15% of Fiddleheads sales are products sourced from local producers operating within 100 miles of the co-op.

### YOU ENHANCE OUR COMMUNITY:

The Co-op financially supports community organizations through in-kind donations and our Neighborly Nickels Program, and also collaborates with area non-profits on community projects that are consonant with the co-op's mission.

## Fiddleheads Food Co-op Owner Application

### Head of Household (Account Owner)

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Opt in for e-mail receipts

*Becoming a Fiddlehead's Owner subscribes you to our electronic communications list from which you may unsubscribe at any time. Fiddleheads will not share your contact information with third parties.*

**Household Owners:** Please print the names of up to three adults who live with you whom you authorize to shop under this account.

First: \_\_\_\_\_ Last: \_\_\_\_\_

First: \_\_\_\_\_ Last: \_\_\_\_\_

First: \_\_\_\_\_ Last: \_\_\_\_\_

### Co-op Ownership is Membership!

Full equity is set at \$175, and can be paid all at once or be satisfied in installment payments of \$25\* due annually. Members receive full benefits upon making their first equity payment and these stay in force provided that equity payments remain current. Ownership benefits may be subject to change at the discretion of the Co-op. The Head of Household listed is the legal owner of the share with voting privileges, and the sole authority permitted to request account changes such as authorization of users or requests for an equity refund.

### Payment Options (choose one)

\$175 Payment of Equity in Full

\$25\* Voting Owner First installment

followed by payments each year of at least \$25 to stay current until the remaining \$150 of equity is paid

\*A \$5 Processing Fee will be applied on each equity installment payment.

I understand and accept the terms of Co-op ownership outlined above.

Signature of Head of Household: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### STAFF USE

Owner ID # 4100000 \_\_\_\_\_ Staff: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Notes \_\_\_\_\_



LOCAL | ORGANIC | HAPPY

## Savings Programs for Owners



**OWNER EXTRAS**  
Special sales just for owners! Savings on our favorite products.



**QUARTERLY COUPON**  
Each Quarter —four times a year — use a 10% coupon on the purchase of your choice.

## Get Involved!

### BIRTHDAY PARTY!

Each February we celebrate the founding of the Co-op with cake, tastings, giveaways and storewide discounts!

### ANNUAL MEETING

Get informed about the co-op's progress and future plans, mingle with other Owners and enjoy refreshments, live music and door prizes!

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Owners can attend board meetings on the third Tuesday of each month: agenda posted online and on the bulletin board. Any owner can run for the Board of Directors.



Let's stay in touch:  
Find us on Facebook & Instagram

# OWNERSHIP INFORMATION & APPLICATION

## GO CO-OP!

Join us as an owner of Fiddleheads Food Co-op: A community-centered grocery store offering local, high-quality, organic and sustainable products!



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