

## Member Application

As a member of North Coast Cooperative, Inc., I agree to the following:

1. I am a resident of California (and understand that if I leave California I must close my membership).
2. I am entitled to all rights, including but not limited to: address change, voting, and redemptions (such as patronage refunds).
3. I will comply with the Bylaws (including any amendments) and other procedures of North Coast Cooperative, Inc.
4. To keep my membership active I will, during each fiscal year ending in March; purchase at least \$50 in products.
5. If I do not wish to remain a member, or I move out of California, I will withdraw my membership and receive a refund (less a \$5 processing fee).

Check if employee:

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY.  
New Member #:

First Member - Full Name, Please Print

First Member - Signature

First Member - Driver's License # (for check cashing)

Second Member - Full Name, Please Print

Second Member - Signature

Second Member - Driver's License # (for check cashing)

Address

CA

City/State/Zip

Phone

Email

All fields must be completed in order for form to be processed.

## Benefits of Joining

- Members are owners.
- Receive a patronage refund when declared by the board of directors. Patronage refunds are a form of profit sharing that is a result of a profitable fiscal year. The more you shop, the more you get back!
- Have one vote in all matters submitted to a vote of the membership, including board of directors elections.
- Serve on the board of directors, or one of its standing committees.
- Attend the Annual Membership Meeting.
- Receive the Co-op News—a free quarterly publication containing resources, articles, and financial, operational, nutrition and food safety, and sales information.
- Belong to an organization that promotes and supports the sustainable development of our community.
- Belong to an organization that actively supports local agriculture, food producers and other local products.
- Receive a discount on cooking classes, workshops, and other activities.
- Receive notifications of recalled items that were purchased at the Co-op.
- Receive a Member Appreciation Discount of 5% on one transaction once a month (subject to change).
- Cash personal checks at the Co-op for up to \$60 above the amount of purchase.
- Cash government and payroll checks at the Co-op for up to \$1,000.
- Receive refunds on products without a receipt.
- Receive discounts from local businesses participating in our business partnership program.

## So Much More...

The North Coast Co-op has so much going on that it takes an entire website to share it all. Visit [www.northcoast.coop](http://www.northcoast.coop) to learn more about being a member, products and services, and how the Co-op builds community.

## Cooperative Principles

A cooperative is based on people uniting to meet common needs. Co-ops function with ideals of self-help, equality, solidarity, and other pragmatic and ethical values. These seven Cooperative Principles are the guidelines by which we, and all co-ops worldwide, put our values into practice:

- **Voluntary and Open Membership**
- **Democratic Member Control**
- **Member Economic Participation**
- **Autonomy and Independence**
- **Education, Training, and Information**
- **Cooperation Among Cooperatives**
- **Concern For Community**

## Mission

North Coast Co-op is a member-owned organization guided by the cooperative principles. As a leader in our community we emphasize a diverse selection of products while engaging members through consumer education, community building, and environmental responsibility.



# Membership Application



25 4th Street  
**Eureka**  
(707) 443-6027



811 I Street  
**Arcata**  
(707) 822-5947

Everyone Can Shop, But We'd Love  
For You to Join!

## Exclusively Co-op

- The finest selection of local and organic produce on the North Coast, with as much as 70% coming from local farmers in the summer!
- Hormone-free and pasture-raised meats, raised locally and cut to order at our full-service meat counter
- Local, pasture-raised eggs and dairy
- The largest selection of local, imported and microbrew beer in Humboldt County
- A vast Bulk section, featuring items such as beans, whole grain pastas, nuts, seeds, flour, granola, locally roasted coffee, herbs, lotions, soaps, shampoos, conditioners, frozen fruits and vegetables and more
- Fresh, organic, and on-the-go Deli items, including an extensive salad bar, hot case and specialty dishes
- Treats from sweet to savory, made in our bakery—nothing artificial added
- Fresh juice, smoothies and kombucha on tap
- Vegan, vegetarian, raw, and gluten free options
- Savings on Co-op label products, such as chocolate, cheese, wine, apple juice, tortilla chips, vitamins and tinctures
- **Co+op Basics** offers everyday low prices on a variety of natural and organic basics in grocery and beyond
- **Co-op Community Kitchens** offer classes ranging from basic to gourmet; learn while sampling some of the finest dishes our local chefs and instructors have to offer
- **Cooperative Community Fund** provides annual grants for local non-profits

## Commonly Asked Questions

### Who can join?

All California residents are welcome to join!

### Why should I join the Co-op?

We are member owned! You don't have to be a member to shop here, but it is encouraged. Your membership investment allows the North Coast Co-op to grow and to continue serving the community that supports it. In return, you have access to member-only benefits (see facing page).

### What are my responsibilities as a member?

Shop at the stores! Exercise your member democratic rights by voting in all matters submitted to the membership, such as board of directors elections. Come to the Annual Membership Meeting. Join a board committee if you like. Support the growth and mission of the Co-op.

### How is the Co-op different?

We own it! Co-ops serve the needs of their member-owners. Our purpose is not to generate a profit for a single owner but to stay financially strong so we can give back to our members in the form of a patronage refund. Patronage refunds are a form of profit sharing based on how much members spent that year. Members receive a patronage refund when declared by the board of directors.



Get connected to other members on our Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/northcoastcoop](http://www.facebook.com/northcoastcoop)

Produced on recycled paper using organic inks. No conventional film, plates or related hazardous chemicals were used.

### How does the Co-op “walk its talk”?

Members drive us to be leaders in the community with programs such as our paper bag initiative, whereby we reduced shoppers' paper bag use by 80 percent; and because of our member-owners, we've never carried plastic bags at checkout. We host events that support the development of our local food system. We also sponsor arts, cultural and community events such as the Pastels on the Plaza, LatinoNet Health Fair, California Coastal Cleanup Day and North Coast Stand Down. In addition, we provide dozens of small grants each year through our Cooperative Community Fund.

### How are my investments used?

Member equity investments enable the Co-op to purchase new equipment and make other capital improvements necessary to provide you with excellent goods and services. By staying strong financially, the Co-op is able to reinvest in the larger community. Members make it all possible!

## How Much Does It Cost to Join?

Joining the Co-op is a simple equity investment. There are three investment levels:

**“A” Shares** — Every member must purchase a \$25 “A” Share. This allows you to be a voting member of the Co-op and eligible for patronage refunds, plus all the benefits listed in this brochure.

**“B” Shares** — Members purchase up to \$300 in “B” shares (sold in \$10 increments) to become a Fair Share member. Fair Share members help sustain the Co-op's commitment to providing top quality goods and services at reasonable prices.

**“C” Shares** — Fair Share members can purchase dividend earning “C” Shares (sold in \$10 increments). Dividend rates are set quarterly by the board of directors.

For more information about investing in the Co-op, contact (707) 822-5947 ext. 234.

## I'm Ready to Join! Now What?



1. Fill out the application on the reverse side.
2. Cut along the dashed line. Save the rest of the brochure for reference.
3. Bring the completed application to Customer Service, along with a minimum of \$25 for your Membership “A” Share.

Welcome! In a few weeks you will receive your membership card. Use your number every time you shop. Tracking your purchases is important for determining how much you will receive in patronage refund when one is declared.

Your patronage keeps your membership alive!