

Locals' Food Market, Inc.

A Cooperatively-Owned Company

Membership

Our mission is to help grow a community-based food system through the establishment of a cooperatively-owned retail storefront. We can provide a dependable market for our local producers and increase the availability of homegrown goods to our community's citizens. Please join us to help build a more sustainable local food system. Invest in your community and become a member-owner today!

How to Join

Joining is easy. Please fill out our simple application and include your \$100 refundable membership investment to become an owner today.

Types of Membership

There are many benefits to membership. As a member you become a co-owner of the co-op and are entitled to an equitable vote in a democratically-run business. Because we aim to serve all members of the community, we offer two main membership options. Join as a Consumer-Member or as a Producer-Member.

The rights and responsibilities of a Consumer-Member include:

- Obtaining membership in the Locals' Market by applying for one of the following Consumer-Membership Plans:
 - ❖ Individual
 - ❖ Household, defined as two or adults living under the same roof
 - ❖ Student
 - ❖ Low-Income, defined as individuals receiving public assistance
- To receive financial benefits for the use of the Co-op's services and enjoy privileges as determined by the Board, such as the receipt of patronage dividends, discounted classes and workshops, discounts on special orders, and discounts at other cooperatives.
- Convenient access to local, fresh, healthy food
- To vote at membership meetings, in referenda, and in elections of the Board of Directors, and to have a Consumer-Member Representative serve on the Board of Directors
- Eligibility to serve on the Board of Directors or selected Committees
- To attend and observe meetings of the Board and Committees and annual Membership Meetings
- To receive from the Board of Directors within 30 days a written response to a written inquiry concerning Co-op matters.

The rights and responsibilities of a producer-member include:

- Enjoy priority status in the supplying of produced goods and services to the Cooperative
- Access to a dependable marketplace and fair prices
- Participation in a network of local producers and direct access to local consumers on a daily basis
- To provide goods and buy goods from the same supportive marketplace
- To vote at membership meetings, in referenda, and in elections of the Board of Directors, and to have a Producer-Member Representative serve on the Board of Directors
- Eligibility to serve on the Board of Directors or selected Committees
- To attend and observe meetings of the Board of Directors and Committees
- To receive from the Board of Directors within 30 days a written response to a written inquiry concerning Co-op matters.

Membership Equity Investment Payment Options

We prefer to receive the refundable \$100 membership investment in one payment. If this is a prohibitive requirement, we offer the following payment plan options:

- Individual or Household memberships may pay \$27.50 each quarter by January 31, April 30, July 31, and October 31. There is a \$10 processing fee built in to this payment plan.
- Students may pay \$25 per semester and still be eligible for all membership benefits. Please provide a valid student ID.
- Low-income Members may pay a \$25 investment in quarterly installments of \$5 by January 31, April 30, July 31, and October 31. Please provide proof of government assistance with your application.

Membership Details

- Membership in good standing and delinquency:

All memberships not in arrears on their payments are considered in good standing. These members may vote; propose by-law amendments; make, second, and vote on motions, resolutions, and nominations; and hold Co-op office. Memberships in arrears may do none of these things.

- Transferring a membership:

Household memberships are transferable; to transfer a membership, please contact the bookkeeper for a Transfer Request Form.

- Terminating a membership:

Should you desire to leave the Cooperative, you must notify the bookkeeper in writing of your intention.

Contact Us

- Send mail to 1015 NE 13th Place Gainesville, FL 32601
- Email us at localsfoodcoop@gmail.com

