



Monadnock FOOD CO-OP **Tabling & Petitioning Policy**

The Monadnock Food Co-op honors the diversity of our membership and recognizes that individual member-owners may hold a wide range of opinions on any given local, regional or national issue. While we encourage member-owners to individually and collectively participate in community education and the political process, we do not allow tabling or petitioning on Monadnock Food Co-op property except as stated herein.

The Monadnock Food Co-op provides opportunities for partnering not-for-profit organizations (501c3) to network with our community on Co-op property. Priority will be given to groups that have a direct impact on our Mission and Ends Policy or Cooperative Principles (see below).

In general the Co-op prioritizes the following issues: Cooperatives, Food and Food Access, Nutrition and Health Products, Sustainable Agriculture, Local Economy Building, Environmental Issues, Consumer Safety, and Social and Economic Justice.

Individuals or other groups seeking to make their voices heard through tabling or petitioning on Co-op property should collaborate with one of our non-profit partners. Issues that are particularly divisive, politically partisan, or religious in nature will be excluded from consideration for purposes of tabling or petitioning. Permission to table or petition at the co-op does not equal co-op endorsement of an issue or support for a particular side of an issue. It is expected that partnering organizations will educate and inform in a fair and balanced manner. Monadnock Food Co-op management reserves the right to use its discretion in interpreting this policy.

The following is required to table or collect petition signatures on Co-op property:

1. Eligible organizations (see above) interested in tabling or petitioning at the Co-op are required to apply at least three weeks in advance to confirm date, time and availability to the Marketing & Membership Manager at marketing@monadnockfood.coop or 603-283-5401. Fundraising or the sale of any items in front of the store must be approved on a case-by-case basis. Signature gathering for petitions is not permitted unless it concerns an issue that the Co-op chooses to sponsor, such as legislation of organic food production standards or the labeling of GMO ingredients.
2. Generally, tabling or petitioning is limited to up to two times per month per group. Only one group at a time may table or collect petition signatures.
3. Upon arrival, before setting up, check-in with management is required. Tablers or petitioners will be instructed as to where to set up and will be given a copy of our current Tabling Policy.

4. Groups must provide their own table and chairs.

5. A display with materials about the organization's goals or relevant materials and staffed with the organization's representatives is required. The organization must be clearly identifiable.

Representatives of the organization or others present with the organization are also requested to refrain from wearing any political or religious messages or endorsements while tabling.

6. Harassment of our customers is our greatest concern. Individuals working or volunteering for the approved organization are requested NOT to directly (verbally or physically) approach people entering or exiting the Co-op, or in the Co-op's parking lot. Co-op Staff who observe tablers or petitioners violating these guidelines, or not upholding respectful and appropriate behavior, have the authority to ask groups to change their behavior or leave the premises. Customer complaints about solicitation will be taken very seriously. Overly aggressive tactics or harassment will lead to the permanent loss of an organization's privileges.

Monadnock Food Co-op Ends Policies

The Monadnock Food Co-op is cooperatively owned and operated by people in our community, and exists to meet our community's need for:

- An accessible, community-owned downtown food market
- A marketplace that welcomes and connects community
- A healthy, sustainable food system
- The support of local farmers and producers
- Appropriate education and training for the community
- A strong, sustainable and improving local economy

Cooperative Principles

Cooperatives around the world generally operate according to the same core principles and values, adopted by the International Co-operative Alliance in 1995. Cooperatives trace the roots of these principles to the first modern cooperative founded in Rochdale, England in 1844.

1. Voluntary and Open Membership

Cooperatives are voluntary organizations, open to all people able to use its services and willing to accept the responsibilities of membership, without gender, social, racial, political or religious discrimination.

2. Democratic Member Control

Cooperatives are democratic organizations controlled by their members—those who buy the goods or use the services of the cooperative—who actively participate in setting policies and making decisions.

3. Members' Economic Participation

Members contribute equally to, and democratically control, the capital of the cooperative. This benefits members in proportion to the business they conduct with the cooperative rather than on the capital invested.

4. Autonomy and Independence

Cooperatives are autonomous, self-help organizations controlled by their members. If the co-op enters into agreements with other organizations or raises capital from external sources, it is done so based on terms that ensure democratic control by the members and maintains the cooperative's autonomy.

5. Education, Training and Information

Cooperatives provide education and training for members, elected representatives, managers and employees so they can contribute effectively to the development of their cooperative. Members also inform the general public about the nature and benefits of cooperatives.

6. Cooperation among Cooperatives

Cooperatives serve their members most effectively and strengthen the cooperative movement by working together through local, national, regional and international structures.

7. Concern for Community

While focusing on member needs, cooperatives work for the sustainable development of communities through policies and programs accepted by the members.

Revised 7/31/13