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The Seven Cooperative Principles

Co-ops are based on values not unlike those we subscribe to individually, including self-responsibility, democracy, equality, honesty and social responsibility. In addition to these common values, seven basic international principles serve as guidelines to provide a democratic structure for co-ops around the world.

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.

Grocery, Deli & Cafe
901 Iowa, Lawrence, KS
open daily 7 a.m.-10 p.m.

CONNECT WITH US



Co+op Cafe
Lawrence Public Library-707 Vermont
open daily until 6 p.m.

785.843.8544
TheMerc.Coop

Want to own a grocery store?



Everyone can shop.
Anyone can own.

The
Merc
Co+op



Become an owner online at www.TheMerc.Coop

Own it.

Join nearly 8,000 of your friends and neighbors and invest in a consumer-owned cooperative business where you have a voice! Your ownership supports a local business that provides a reliable source of healthy, locally produced and organic products, and invests in the sustainability and well-being of our community. Since 1974, everyone is welcome at The Merc Co+op and anyone can become an owner.

Our Ends

The Merc Co+op will be a thriving consumer-owned cooperative in our region that is on the forefront of:

- Providing access to healthy, local and organic food and products;
- Transforming and nourishing the health of our community;
- Creating a robust, sustainable local food economy; and
- Building a community based on hospitality, generosity and care for the environment.

Owner Benefits

- Exclusive owner discounts on shopping trips during Owner Appreciation Days, twice per year.
- Patronage rebates proportional to the amount you spent at the co-op during profitable fiscal years.
- Senior owners, ages 62 and up, receive a 5% discount on purchases made each and every Tuesday.
- 10% case discounts on special orders.
- Economic assistance (eligible owners may apply for our 10% MercShare+ discount).
- Vote in our annual Board of Director elections.
- Eligibility to run for a seat on the Board of Directors.
- Access to the co-op's financial standing and future plans.
- Invitation to the Annual Co-op Meeting to enjoy food and drink with the board and learn about the health and future of our co-op.
- Opportunity to participate in focus groups and surveys to help shape the co-op's future.

How To Become An Owner

- Complete the Own It form, purchase a share from your cashier and go home with your owner packet today!
- Purchase a share online and we'll mail you your new owner packet.
- Questions? Let's talk it out! Contact us at 785-843-8544 or ownerservices@th Mercer.coop.

Fresh, delicious food is just the beginning!



APPLICATION AND AGREEMENT

Owner Name		
Date of Application	Date of Birth	Owner Number
		CASHIER FILL IN
Address		
City, State, ZIP		
Phone		
Email		

EQUITY SHARE PURCHASE

Upon receipt of total \$75 investment, the co-op agrees to issue the share of common stock as fully paid and non-assessable, conferring full privileges, benefits and responsibilities of membership. Shares are fully redeemable.

- I wish to purchase one \$75 equity share.
- I wish to purchase one \$25 portion equity share.
The remaining balance must be paid within one year from date of application.

Date of Payment	Amount of Payment
	\$
	\$
	\$

- I wish to purchase one \$10 portion equity share and apply for a MercShare ownership subsidy.*
Co-op shoppers currently enrolled in the Kansas or Missouri Food Assistance Program (formerly Food Stamps, SNAP) and/or Women, Infants and Children (WIC) are eligible. MercShare owners are eligible for MercShare+, a 10% discount on all purchases.
*Discount must be renewed annually. Include a copy of current KS/MO Food Assistance Program and/or WIC benefits form(s)/ card(s) and attach a register receipt documenting a sale using a qualifying benefits card. *Share redemption value equal to applicant investment. EBT cash users do not qualify without additional proof of receiving benefits.*

I have received and agree to the terms and conditions as outlined in The Community Mercantile / The Merc Co+op's Shareholder Agreement.



OWNER SIGNATURE

CASHIER NAME