

- **What is a GEN?**

A GEN is a "group exemption number" and recognizes a central organization with "subordinate" groups (ie. 4-H clubs). This allows for the subordinate groups to use the tax-exempt status of the central organization.

- **I thought we already could do that with the state 4-H 501(c)(3)?**

When we originally filed for 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status with the IRS, years ago, we did not file for a GEN. All of our clubs, whether they were fundraising or not, when they opened bank accounts, used the one EIN from the state 4-H. This no longer is acceptable to the IRS.

- **Filing for an EIN is not the same as getting tax-exempt status?**

No, an EIN is an "employee identification number" and is used as an identifier for an organization (similar to a social security number for an individual). Banks require an EIN when clubs open an account. It is not difficult to apply for, and if you do it online the response is immediate. Filing for tax-exempt status with the IRS is a different, more lengthy process and outcome.

- **How will being a part of the GEN be different than now?**

All clubs (who have a bank account) are required to have their own EIN. These club EINs will be submitted along with the paperwork in our application for the GEN with the IRS.

- **Does our club have a choice in whether to become a part of the GEN?**

YES, your club has a choice.

- **What if our club chooses not to be a part of the GEN?**

If your club chooses not to be a part of the GEN, and you would like to fundraise, accept donations, apply for grants, your club will need to apply for your own 501(c)(3) non-profit tax-exempt status with the IRS. You will no longer be able to use the state 4-H 501(c)(3) status.

- **How will our club tax filing requirements change if our club was to become a part of the GEN?**

We will be able to file on your club's behalf with your annual financial statement information; this includes those clubs that have more than \$50,000 in income annually. It will be critical that we both receive the annual financial statements when they are due, and that the beginning balance of each year matches the ending balance of the prior year.

- **Are there fees associated with being a part of the GEN?**

Currently there are no fees associated with being a part of the GEN. In the future, we may ask Districts to chip in for the accountant fees, depending on their percentage of clubs and/or money that they handle.

- **How does my club become part of the GEN?**

Simply fill out the form found at:

[uaf.edu/ces/4-h/get-involved/current-member/files/pdfs/GEN\\_acknowledgement\\_form.pdf](http://uaf.edu/ces/4-h/get-involved/current-member/files/pdfs/GEN_acknowledgement_form.pdf) and send/ email it to your District 4-H staff.