



Wild Oats Market Tabling and Petitioning Policy

Wild Oats Market 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 Wild Oats property except as stated herein.

Wild Oats Market supports providing opportunities for not-for-profit organizations (501(c)3), with whom we partner, to network with our community on Co-op property. Priority will be given to those non-profit groups that have a direct impact on our Mission and Ends policy (see below) or on our role as a cooperative. In general the Co-op prioritizes the following issues: Cooperatives, Food and Food Access, Nutrition and Health Products, Sustainable Agriculture, 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. On all other issues, it is expected that partnering organizations will educate and inform in a fair and balanced manner. The Wild Oats 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 one week in advance (with Robin Riley at 413-458-8060 or marketing@wildoats.coop) to confirm date, time and availability. Fundraising or the sale of any items in front of the store must be approved by Robin Riley, and will be determined 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 the Customer Service Manager or PIC (Person In Charge) 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. Share this policy with anyone helping you. Staying behind your table and accepting when a customer is not interested will help to insure compliance with this policy. 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.**