

# FAQ's and Information for Fair Family Members applying for Elder Status

## Important emails and Elder Website:

Application process: [elderapplications@gmail.com](mailto:elderapplications@gmail.com)

Wristbands: [elderwristbands@gmail.com](mailto:elderwristbands@gmail.com)

Elder website: <https://ocfelders.weebly.com/>

Phone contact: Jan Royalty 541-517-6472 (leave a message)

## The Elders were started in 1999

## Qualifications and other considerations in becoming an Elder

Q: Who qualifies to be an Elder?

A: The eligibility criteria for becoming an Elder were changed and approved by the OCF Board of directors at the 11/09/23 Board meeting. **The Elders eligibility age** will gradually be raised to 60 over a 10-year period.

Please see the chart on the Elder website. [Becoming an Elder - OREGON COUNTRY FAIR ELDERS \(weebly.com\)](https://ocfelders.weebly.com/becoming-an-elder-oregon-country-fair-elders)

The duration of service did not change: Any Fair participant who has served the Fair as Staff, Booth Member, and/or Entertainer for at least 20 years. The 20 years do not need to be consecutive.

Q: How do I apply?

A: Fair Family wishing to become Elders must fill out an application. It is recommended that a record is kept of crew leaders or booth reps and their contact information throughout the years since this information is required.

Q: If I have Elder Status, must I get my wristband through the Elders?

A: NO. Many Elders remain in their crew/booth/entertainer role each year, and no person with Elder status should be pressured into obtaining their wristband through the Elders. Any year you obtain your wristband from Elders, you cannot also get a wristband via your traditional job, booth, or position.

Q: Can I keep my Job, Booth or Position and still be recognized as an Elder?

A: YES. After applying and being approved, you obtain what is termed "Elder Status."

Q: Can I get an Elder wristband and continue in my job as crew, booth assistant or entertainer?

A: YES, but you are an Elder helping the crew, booth or entertainment.

Q: Can I get my wristband through Elders and remain a crafter in a booth?

A: NO. In February 2013, the Board of Directors passed a policy change that a Craftsperson who elects to obtain their wristband through the Elders program may not sell their crafts during the public hours of the Fair in that calendar year.

Q: Can a Crafter with Elder status obtain their camping pass through Elders and still be a booth rep?

A: NO. You may not receive a wristband through Elders and be a booth rep.

Q: Do I have to give up Booth Rep Status to a Crafter from another booth if I elect to get my wristband through the Elders Committee?

A: NO. The new Booth rep can be anyone you (the Booth Rep) choose, but they need to be an active Crafter for 2 years in your booth.

Q: Can a person obtain Elder Status if they have attended as an "SO" or paid for admission to the Fair?

A: This question depends on the individual's circumstances and answers submitted on the application for Elder Status. The Elders Committee interprets the intent of the OCF Board motion to grant "Elder Status" as meaning that the applicant must have "contributed" to the OCF in some verifiable way. These situations are handled in a case-by-case basis.

## **The application process**

The Application subcommittee contacts the people listed as references to verify that the information is accurate. If information is missing or confusing the applicant is contacted to get clarification. Then, the Elder Committee approves the application. Successful Elder applicants are notified by email or snail mail (depending on their preferences). The Elder's name and contact information are entered on a confidential database.

Q: What is the deadline for applications for the current Fair?

A: The deadline for the Current Fair is FEBRUARY 1st.

Q: How do I apply to become an Elder?

A: An application needs to be filled out and sent to the Elders application subcommittee.

Q: Where can I find an application?

A: Applications are available at the OCF office and can also be downloaded from the Elders website <https://ocfelders.weebly.com> and the OCF Fair Family Website <http://oregoncountryfair.net/>.

Q: How do I return my application?

A: Mail or bring it in to: OCF Office, Attn: Elders 442 Lawrence St Eugene, OR 97401  
Or, scan it or take a photo and email it to [elderapplications@gmail.com](mailto:elderapplications@gmail.com).

Q: How long does the Elder approval process usually take?

A: It is variable, depending on when the next committee meeting takes place. Usually 1-2 months. We highly recommend you keep a copy of your application in the event the application gets misplaced.

Q: How do I know if I have been approved as an Elder?

A: The Elders Committee will notify you by mail or email, depending on your preferences listed on the application. You will receive a letter of congratulations along with an FAQ sheet for Verified Elders.

## **Camping, Voting, Storytelling and Volunteering**

Q: As an Elder, do I now camp in Elder camp?

A: Maybe. There is no requirement to move your camping location when you become an Elder. In fact, space is very limited and there is a waiting list. For more information check the Elder website or send email to [eldercamphost@gmail.com](mailto:eldercamphost@gmail.com)

Q: If I receive Elder Status, but do not attend the Fair every year, do I remain a voting member of the OCF?

A: If you are registered as a member to vote in OCF elections, then YES. The Board of Directors approved a change in the OCF By-Laws that permits this circumstance. However, if you have not voted in at least one of the three last annual membership elections, your membership will be purged from the list, and you must re-apply to be eligible to vote.

Q: How can I share my stories of the earlier Fairs?

A: The Elders Website is collecting stories. They can be contacted via [ocfelderwebsite@gmail.com](mailto:ocfelderwebsite@gmail.com). You can also contact <https://fairfamilyradio.com/> to share stories.

Q: Although I'm an Elder, I wish to continue to volunteer. Where can I find out more?

A: Look for information on the Elder website about volunteering and contact the Elder volunteer subcommittee at [eldervolunteers@gmail.com](mailto:eldervolunteers@gmail.com). We are continually looking for volunteers on Elder projects. If you have any questions, contact us!