C:\Users\Lady Jane\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\2MM3T0ZF\MC900441411[7].wmf **FIRST LIGHT FARM’S MEMBERSHIP RULES 2018**

First Light Farm is a membership farm that seeks to promote a healthy, harmonious community for all of its members as well as for those individuals and families who come to our farm stand or attend one of our events.

**As a member, we ask you to please observe the following commitments. All of our membership rules are written to protect and support you as well as to uphold the community values of First Light Farm:**

**Your “Mini Farm”**

* You will be assigned your own “mini farm” which you are free to identify with your own signage.
* Mini Farmers have access to our staff who can help with your questions, or can be hired to help you design your Mini Farm if you’d like.

**Gardening and Maintenance**

* We are certified naturally grown farm; therefore, we only allow organic farming methods and practices. This means NO synthetic chemicals including pesticides, insecticides, herbicides, weed killers, and fertilizers. We ask you to be mindful of the organic complexity of the soil by reducing tillage, using mulch, etc. We can help you with these practices. Just ask us.
* We ask that you purchase organic seeds if possible or for an additional fee, we can grow start your seeds and grow seedlings for you. Ask us about this service if you’re interested. Some of the seed companies we use are: Osborne Seed, Territorial Seed, High Mowing, Irish Eyes (for potatoes mainly), Johnny’s, and Peaceful Valley Organic. All of these companies are online for easy seed ordering. Please do not buy starts from the big box stores, but use local nurseries or PCC for organically grown starts.

**Organic Fertilizers and Cover Crops**

* You are welcome to fertilize your own Mini Farm with compost, fish meal, composted manure, lime, etc. Please speak to us if you have questions. We use fish compost from Oly Mountain. You can buy some from us if you’d like.
* We are committed to healthy soils and therefore plant cover crops at the beginning or end of the growing season.

**Your Responsibility**

* You are responsible for the maintenance of your Mini Farm from when your soil is prepared (which we do, depending on the weather usually in late spring) through the fall growing season.
* We ask that you keep your Mini Farm weeded and looking cared for throughout the growing season.  If for any reason you find that you are not able to care for your Mini Farm please contact us.  We also will contact you if we notice that your Mini Farm is looking unloved! If you are going to be gone for an extended period of time (for example, summer vacation), you can hire one of our staff to care for your Mini Farm or make arrangements with another Mini Farm family. If you are going to ask someone else to take care of your Mini Farm, they must sign a Liability Form as well as a copy of our membership rules.
* There is no trash service on the land, so please pack out whatever you bring with you to the farm.  We will have areas designated for “green” material (weeds, old plants, etc.) which will be used for composting.
* Your membership is good for one year and must be renewed each year. We hope that you will stay with us for many seasons to come!
* Farming is labor intensive!  We encourage you to work with family, friends, neighbors and/or your community group to develop a farming schedule that will allow you to maintain your Mini Farm as well as have time to do other things.  Your Mini Farm cannot be given to someone else or another group without permission from First Light Farm.
* First Light Farm does have tools for you to use, but you may want to bring your own farming tools.  If you do need to borrow a tool, we ask that after you have finished with them that you return them to where you got them. If something breaks, please let us know.
* At the end of the growing season, please return your Mini Farm to the condition you received it in.  We will take care of planting winter cover crops and preparing the soil for the next growing season, but please remove all structures and other non-plant materials (like bean or tomato trellises) unless you have made specific arrangements with us.
* Please do not bring any pets to the farm.  Because we are growing organic vegetables we follow Department of Agriculture standards.Besides agricultural practices, we also have families with children who are afraid of dogs in particular. For the best interests of other members and your pet, please keep them at home. Do not bring them to the farm and leave them in your car while you work on your Mini Farm as the hot sun can kill dogs kept in cars very quickly.

**MEMBERSHIP SAFETY**

* Because we are a working farm, we have bee hives on site to help with the pollination process.  The hives are placed at the back of the land.  The bees are friendly unless you swat at them.  If you or your child is allergic to bees, please do not take a membership with our farm as we cannot be responsible for your health or the health of your child!
* You are responsible for your children and their safety. Please supervise your children by helping them learn to respect the earth, the creatures we share it with, and other people’s spaces.  If you let your children use tools, you are responsible for their safety.  Please don’t let your children be out of your sight and voice.
* Children are encouraged to run on the paths and explore the farm, but you are responsible for their safety.

**Water**

* First Light Farm draws its water from the Snoqualmie River (we lease water rights).  In the spring and early summer, there is sufficient water in the soil where plants do not need to be watered from the top.  However, during the warmer months in July and August, we do water the seedlings. As good water stewards, we ask you to use only enough water to keep your veggies growing.  Throughout the growing season, we will provide you with access to hoses that draw water from our water pumps and water tanks that are filled with water for dipping your watering can in to water your veggies.
* Always wash your vegetables before eating!

**Being a Friendly Farmer**

* Nature’s music is the only one permitted on the farm.  Practice stillness and listening to the sounds of the earth.  Please leave all other music makers (other than children!) at home.
* If you have a difference with a fellow farmer, please use common courtesy and resolve differences in the way that nature does – learn to be part of a diverse ecosystem.
* If you have an issue that won’t easily resolve itself, let us know. We are here to listen too.  Most situations are resolvable!
* In order to protect the community spirit of First Light Farm, we reserve the right to ask anyone to leave our farm if we believe their conduct is inappropriate or harmful in any way. If you are asked to leave, we do not refund your membership fee or your mini farm costs.

**Our Responsibilities**

* Each year we will provide the initial care for the fields – discing, rototilling, and getting the ground reading for planting.
* We have a rototiller and broad fork to ready the soil for your planting. However, you should also consider creative ways to keep your garden weed-free because weeds will always be a challenge in this fertile valley. Consider mulching around your plants to keep your soil happy.
* First Light Farm provides access to a sani-can or portable restroom and hand sanitizer for your hygiene needs.

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*“When despair for the world grows in me, and I wake in the night at the least sound in fear of what my life and my children's lives may be -- I go and lie down where the wood drake rests in his beauty on the water, and the great heron feeds. I come into the peace of wild things who do not tax their lives with forethought or grief. I come into the presence of still water. And I feel above me the day-blind stars waiting with their light.     For a time I rest in the grace of the world, and am free.”*  
  
**– Wendell Berry, author, poet and farmer**

I have read the form and understand that by signing, I am agreeing to membership rules as outlined in this document.

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Signature Date