

# Co-operative PRINCIPLES

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## How do the 7 co-operative principles shape my credit union experience?

Credit unions put their values into practice by following the 7 co-operative principles on this page. This sets credit unions apart from all other financial institutions, strengthens the community and benefits you too!



### 1 Voluntary and open membership

**What it means to you:** No matter what your financial situation looks like, the door is open, without gender, social, racial, political or religious discrimination.



### 2 Democratic member control

**What it means to you:** You help call the shots by electing a board of directors. One member equals one vote. This is local democracy in action.



### 3 Member economic participation

**What it means to you:** Better rates, lower fees and services that benefit the entire credit union. The more that members participate, the more there is to go around.



### 4 Autonomy and independence

**What it means to you:** As a financial co-operative, your credit union is controlled by real members like you, instead of outside shareholders.



### 5 Education, training and information

**What it means to you:** Access to financial literacy tools and resources. Credit unions believe that education contributes to personal growth.



### 6 Co-operation among co-operatives

**What it means to you:** Your credit union strengthens the co-operative movement by partnering with organizations that share the same important values.



### 7 Concern for community

**What it means to you:** Knowing that your day-to-day banking translates into benefits for charities, local businesses and the entire community.



The International Co-operative Alliance is the caretaker of the internationally accepted co-operative principles. Visit [ica.coop](http://ica.coop) to read the full principles.

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