

# Liberty FFA Chapter Constitution

## Article I. Name, Mission, and Strategies

Section A. The name of this organization shall be the Liberty FFA Chapter of the National FFA Organization.

Section B. The mission and strategies for this chapter are as follows:

FFA makes a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth, and career success through agricultural education.

1. Develop competent and assertive agricultural leadership
2. Increase awareness of the global and technological importance of agriculture and its contribution to our well-being.
3. Strengthens the confidence of agriculture students in themselves and their work.
4. Promotes the intelligent choice and establishment of an agricultural career.
5. Encourages achievement in supervised agricultural experience programs.
6. Encourages wise management of economic, environmental, and human resources of the community.
7. Develop interpersonal skills in teamwork, communications, human relations, and social interaction.
8. Builds character and promotes citizenship, volunteerism, and patriotism.
9. Promotes cooperation and cooperative attitudes among all people.
10. Promotes healthy lifestyles.
11. Encourages excellence in scholarships.

## Article II. Organization

Section A. The Liberty Chapter of FFA is a chartered local unit of the Texas Association of FFA, which is chartered by the National FFA Organization.

Section B. This chapter accepts in full the provisions in the constitution and by-laws of the Association of FFA as well as those of the National FFA Organization.

## Article III. Membership

Section A. Membership in this chapter shall be of three kinds: (1) Active; (2) Junior; and (3) Honorary, as defined by the National FFA Constitution.

Section B. The regular activities of this chapter shall be carried on by the active membership.

Section C. Honorary membership in this chapter shall be limited to the Honorary Chapter FFA Degree.

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Section D. Active members in good standing may vote on all business brought before the chapter. An active member shall be considered in good standing when:

1. While in school, be enrolled in at least one agricultural education course during the school year and/or follow a planned course of study. (Members may remain active for one year only without being in a class) Either course must include a supervised agriculture experience program, The objective of which is preparation for an agricultural career.
2. Show an interest in the affairs of the organization by attending meetings, striving for degrees of membership, and participating in other organized activities of the chapter.
3. Pay all current district, area, state, and national activity fees by the date determined by the chapter.
4. Display conduct consistent with the ideals and purposes of the National FFA Organization.

Section E. Names of applicants for membership shall be filled with the membership committee.

Section F. Guidelines for Junior Membership

1. Junior members must have a sibling in FFA or parents must be active members of the Liberty Young Farmer Chapter.
2. Juniors must be in the third grade or nine years old.
3. Must pay activity fees annually.
4. Must attend regular FFA meetings minimum of 50%
5. Members will abide by the school's no-pass-no-play rules.
6. Members using any unethical practices on animals will lose all privileges of this club.
7. Members are limited to exhibiting livestock only
8. Members will abide by the constitution and by-laws.

### **Article IV. Emblems**

Section A. The FFA emblem shall be the emblem of the chapter.

Section B. Emblems used by the members shall be designated by the National FFA.

### **Article V. Degrees and Privileges of Active Membership**

Section A. There shall be five degrees of active membership based on individual achievement. These degrees are: (1) Discovery FFA Degree, (2) Greenhand FFA Degree, (3) Chapter FFA Degree, (4) State FFA Degree (Lonestar), and (5) American FFA Degree. All Discovery FFA members are entitled to wear the regulation bronze

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and blue emblem pin. All Greenhand members are entitled to wear the regulation bronze emblem pin. All members holding the Chapter FFA Degree are entitled to wear the regulation silver emblem pin. All members holding the State FFA Degree are entitled to wear the regulation gold emblem charm. All members holding the American FFA Degree are entitled to wear the regulation gold emblem key.

Section B. Discovery FFA Degree: To be eligible to receive the Discovery FFA Degree from a chapter, the member must meet the following minimum Requirements:

1. Be enrolled in an agricultural education class for a year while in grades 7-8.
2. Have become an activity fee-paying member of the FFA at the local, state, and national levels.
3. Participate in at least one local FFA chapter activity outside of scheduled class time.
4. Have knowledge of agricultural-related careers and entrepreneurial opportunities.
5. Be familiar with the local FFA chapter program of activities.
6. Submit a written application for the degree.

Section C. Greenhand FFA Degree. Minimum Qualifications for Election:  
(Refer To National Constitution)

1. Must have received the Greenhand FFA Degree.
2. Must have satisfactorily completed the equivalent of at least 180 hours of systematic school instruction in agricultural education above the ninth-grade level, have in operation an approved supervised experience program, and be enrolled in an agricultural education course.
3. Must have participated in the planning and conducting of at least three official functions in the chapter Program of Activities.
4. Must have earned and productively invested at least \$150 by the member's own efforts or worked at least forty-five hours in excess of scheduled class time, or a combination thereof, and have developed plans for continued growth and improvement in a supervised agricultural experience program.
5. Must have effectively led a group discussion for 15 minutes.
6. Must have demonstrated five procedures of parliamentary law.
7. Must show progress toward individual achievement in the FFA awards program.
8. Must have a satisfactory scholastic record.

Section D. Chapter FFA Degree. Minimum Qualifications for Election:  
(Refer to National Constitution)

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1. Must have received the Greenhand FFA Degree.
2. Must have satisfactorily completed the equivalent of at least 180 hours of systematic school instruction in agricultural education above the ninth-grade level, have in operation an approved supervised experience program, and be enrolled in an agricultural education course.
3. Must have participated in the planning and conducting of at least three official functions in the chapter Program of Activities.
4. Must have earned and productively invested at least \$150 by the member's own efforts or worked at least forty-five hours in excess of scheduled class time, or a combination thereof, and have developed plans for continued growth and improvement in a supervised agricultural experience program.
5. Must have effectively led a group discussion for 15 minutes.
6. Must have demonstrated five procedures of parliamentary law.
7. Must show progress toward individual achievement in the FFA awards program.
8. Must have a satisfactory scholastic record.

Section E. State FFA Degree. Minimum qualification for selection:

1. Qualifications for the State FFA Degree are those set forth in the constitution of the Texas FFA Association and National FFA Organization.

Section F. American FFA Degree. Minimum qualifications for selection:

1. Qualifications for the American FFA Degree are those set forth in the constitution of the National FFA Organization.

## **Article VI. State and Chapter Officers**

Section A. The offices of an FFA chapter shall be: president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, reporter, and sentinel. Other officers may be elected as deemed appropriate by the local advisor and/or governing body. The teachers(s) of agricultural education shall be the FFA advisor(s). Chapter officers shall be elected annually (Spring Banquet) by a majority vote of the paid members after the following requirements have been met:

1. Must have returned a signed officer contract before the officer test.
2. Officers must have completed two years of ag science classes to be able to run.
3. Officers will participate in a three-part election.  $\frac{1}{3}$  will be a test,  $\frac{1}{3}$  will be an interview and  $\frac{1}{3}$  will be a vote by the active members.

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- A. Officers will take an online test proctored by judging card on a pre-set scheduled date. The test will come from the FFA Manual and the Parliamentary Guide. Test scores will rank each candidate from highest grade to lowest grade. (Highest score = 1 Second highest = 2 ...)
- B. All officers will be interviewed. The interviewers will rank the candidates from 1st to last candidate. Interviewers shall be AG teachers or other qualified people with knowledge of agriculture or interviewing.
- C. The final part of the officer election is the popular vote by the active members. Voting will take place in all ag classes on a day set up by the advisors. Candidates with the most votes will receive a 1 followed by second 2 etc.
- D. Totals from all three rankings will be added together and the candidate with the lowest number will be president, the second lowest will be vice-president, etc. This makes each part of the officer election worth 33.3%
- E. If two candidates should tie the tie will be broken first on interview placing, if still tied the tie will be broken on the test score, and if there is still a tie it will be broken on the popular vote score.

### **Article VII. Activity Fees**

- Section A. Local activity fees in this chapter shall be fixed annually by a majority vote of the active members.
- Section B. Full local, state, and national activity fees shall be paid by all active members.
- Section C. No member shall be considered active and in good standing unless he/she pays full local, state, and national FFA activity fees.

### **Article VIII. Meetings**

- Section A. Regular meetings shall be held every month during the school year unless some other FFA activity is that month. Special meetings may be called when needed.
- Section B. To be considered an active member of the FFA and participate in livestock shows and FFA competitions you must attend 50 percent of the scheduled meetings.
- Section C. Delegates shall be elected annually to represent the chapter at District, Area, and State Conventions as voting delegates. Other delegates may be named as necessary in order to have proper representation at various other FFA meetings within the state.

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Section D. A majority of the active members, listed on the secretary's membership roll, shall make a quorum. A quorum must be present at any meeting at which a vote is taken to change or amend the constitution and/or by-laws of the Liberty FFA Chapter.

### **Article IX. Amendments**

Section A. This constitution may be amended or changed at any regular chapter meeting by a two-thirds majority vote of the active members present providing it is not in conflict with the state association constitution or that of the National FFA.

Section B. By-laws may be adopted to fit the needs of the chapter at any regular chapter meeting by a two-thirds vote of the active members present providing such by-laws do not conflict in any way with the constitution and by-laws of either the state association or the national organization.