

Bastrop FFA Chapter Constitution

Revised on 07/6/21

ARTICLE I - Name, Mission and Strategies

Section A. The name of this organization shall be the Bastrop FFA Chapter of the National FFA Organization and the Texas FFA Association.

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

Bastrop 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. Develops competent and assertive agricultural leadership.
2. Increases 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. Develops 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 scholarship.

ARTICLE II - Organization

Section A. The Bastrop FFA Chapter 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, bylaws and policies of the Texas Association of FFA and the National FFA Organization and the policies and regulations of the Bastrop Independent School District.

ARTICLE III - Membership

Section A. Membership in this chapter shall be of four kinds: (1) Active; (2) Alumni; (3) Honorary and (4) Junior, as defined by the National and Texas FFA Constitutions and by Texas FFA Association membership policies.

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

Section C. To be eligible for active membership in this chapter, a student must meet the membership eligibility requirements of the National FFA Organization and the Texas FFA Association. Active members in good standing may vote on all business brought before the chapter. An active member shall be considered in good standing when he or she:

1. While in school, be enrolled in at least one agriculture, food and natural resources course, as defined in Texas FFA Association membership policies, during the school year and/or follow a planned course of study. Either course must include a supervised agricultural experience program, the objective of which is preparation for an agriculture, food and natural resources career.
2. Shows 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. Pays all current local, district, area, state and national dues by the date determined by the chapter.
4. Displays conduct consistent with the ideals and purposes of the National FFA Organization, Texas FFA Association and with the school district's code of student conduct.
5. Meets all other local standards and requirements described in this chapter's bylaws and policies.

Section D. This chapter may elect to have a junior FFA organization. Junior members must meet all junior FFA membership requirements described in the Texas FFA Association Constitution and policies. A junior member shall be considered in good standing when he or she:

1. Shows an interest in the affairs of the organization by attending junior member meetings.
2. Pays local and state dues by the date determined by the chapter.
3. Displays conduct consistent with the ideals and purposes of the National FFA Organization and with the school district's code of student conduct.
4. Meets all other local standards and requirements described in this chapter's bylaws and policies.

Section E. Names of applicants for membership shall be filed with the secretary and/or the chairman of the membership committee.

Section F. The membership year for this chapter shall begin on August 1 and end on July 31 of each year.

Section G. Alumni membership -- Membership may be open to former active members and honorary members, present and former professional agricultural educators, parents of FFA members, and others interested in and supportive of the FFA.

Section H. Honorary Membership – Farmers, school superintendents, principals, school board trustees, advisory committee members, chapter advisors, teachers, staff members in agriculture, food and natural resource education, business peoples, support group members and others who are helping to advance agricultural education and FFA and who have rendered outstanding service may be elected to honorary membership by a majority vote of the members present at any regular or special meeting. Honorary membership in this chapter shall be limited to the Honorary Chapter FFA Degree. Honorary Chapter FFA Degree recipients shall be entitled to wear the official silver or gold emblem pin. Procedures for nominating and electing honorary members shall be described in this chapter’s bylaws or rules.

ARTICLE IV - Emblems

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

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

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 and (5) American FFA Degree. All Discovery FFA members are entitled to wear the regulation bronze and blue emblem pin. All Greenhands 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. Minimum qualifications for election:
(Refer to Texas FFA Constitution)

1. Be enrolled in a local credit agriculture, food and natural resources class for at least a portion of the school year while in grades 7-8.
2. Have become a dues paying member of the FFA at local, state and national levels.
3. Participate in at least one local FFA chapter activity outside of scheduled class time.
4. Have knowledge of agriculturally related career, ownership and entrepreneurial opportunities.
5. Be familiar with the local FFA chapter program of activities.
6. Submit written applications for the degree.

Section C. Greenhand FFA Degree. Minimum qualifications for election:

(Refer to Texas FFA Constitution.)

1. Be enrolled in an agriculture, food and natural resources course as defined by Texas FFA membership policies for high school credit and have satisfactory plans for a supervised agricultural experience program.
2. Learn and explain the meaning of the FFA Creed, Motto, and Salute.
3. Describe and explain the meaning of the FFA emblem and colors.
4. Demonstrate a knowledge of the FFA Code of Ethics and the proper use of the FFA jacket.
5. Demonstrate knowledge of the history of the organization, the chapter constitution and bylaws, and the chapter Program of Activities.
6. Personally own or have access to the Official FFA Manual and the FFA Student Handbook.
7. Submit a written application for the Greenhand FFA Degree.

Section D. Chapter FFA Degree. Minimum qualifications for election:

(Refer to Texas FFA Constitution.)

1. Must have received the Greenhand FFA Degree.
2. Have satisfactorily completed the equivalent of at least two semesters of systematic school instruction in Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources at or above the ninth grade level, have in operation an approved supervised agricultural experience program, and be enrolled in an Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources course.
3. Have participated in the planning and conducting of at least three official functions in the chapter Program of Activities.
4. Have earned and productively invested at least \$150 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. The combination of hours multiplied by a factor of 3.33 and dollars must equal or exceed the number 150.
5. Have effectively led a group discussion for fifteen minutes.
6. Have demonstrated five procedures of parliamentary law.
7. Have shown progress toward individual achievement in the FFA awards program.
8. Have a satisfactory scholastic record.
9. Have participated in at least 10 hours of community service activities. These hours are in addition to and cannot be duplicated as paid or unpaid labor.
10. Have submitted an application for the Chapter FFA Degree.

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

(Refer to Texas FFA Constitution)

1. Have received the Chapter FFA Degree.
2. Have been an active FFA member for at least two years (24 months) at the time of receiving the State FFA Degree.
3. Have satisfactorily completed the equivalent of at least four semesters of systematic school instruction in Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources at or above the ninth grade level, which includes a supervised agricultural experience program.

4. Have earned and productively invested at least \$1,000 or worked at least 300 hours in excess of scheduled class time, or a combination thereof in a supervised agricultural experience program. The combination of hours, multiplied by a factor of 3.56 and dollars must exceed or equal the number 1000.
5. Have demonstrated leadership ability by:
 - a. Performing ten procedures of parliamentary law.
 - b. Giving a six-minute speech on a topic relating to agriculture or the FFA.
 - c. Serving as an officer, committee chairperson, or participating member of a major committee
6. Have a satisfactory scholastic record as certified by the local Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources instructor and the principal or superintendent.
7. Have participated in the planning and completion of the chapter program of activities.
8. Have completed ten activities above the chapter level in at least three of six different categories: leadership development events, career development events, conventions and meetings, project shows, student awards and leadership and service as described in the policies adopted by the Board of Directors.
9. Have participated in at least 25 hours of community service within at least two different community service activities. These hours are in addition to and cannot be duplicated as paid or unpaid SAE hours.

Written records of achievement of all requirements, verified by the chapter FFA advisor, shall be submitted to the State Association at least one month prior to the state FFA convention at which the State FFA Degree is to be received. The State FFA Executive Director shall provide for a review of the records and submit a recommendation to the State FFA Board of Directors, which shall nominate at the State FFA convention the candidates who have been found worth to receive the honor. The State FFA Degree will be conferred upon the candidate subject to approval by the delegates at the state convention

Section F. American FFA Degree. Minimum qualifications for selection:
(Refer to Texas FFA Constitution)

1. Have received the State FFA Degree, have been an active member for the past three years, and have a record or satisfactory participation in the activities on the chapter and state levels.
2. Have satisfactorily completed the equivalent of at least three years (540 hours) of systematic secondary school instruction in an Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources program or have completed the program of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources at the school last attended.
3. Have graduated from high school at least twelve months prior to the national convention at which the degree is to be granted.
4. Have in operation and have maintained records to substantiate an outstanding supervised agricultural experience program through which a member has exhibited comprehensive planning, managerial and financial expertise.
5. A student after entering agricultural education must have: a. earned at least \$10,000 and productively invested at least \$7,500; or b. earned and productively invested \$2,000 and worked 2,250 hours in excess of scheduled class time. Any combination of hours, times a factor of 3.56, plus actual dollars earned and productively invested must be equal

to or greater than the number 10,000. Hours used for the purpose of producing earnings reported as productively invested income shall not be duplicated as hours of credit to meet the minimum requirements for the degree.

6. Have a record of outstanding leadership abilities and community involvement and have achieved a high school scholastic record of "C" or better as certified by the principal or superintendent.

7. Have participated in at least 50 hours of community service, within at least three different community service activities. These hours are in addition to and cannot be duplicated as paid or unpaid SAE hours.

8. Submit an application and supporting documentation pursuant to the deadlines and requirements described in Texas FFA policies and procedures.

ARTICLE VI – Officers and Executive Committee

Section A. The offices of an FFA chapter shall be: president, vice president, secretary, student advisor, treasurer, reporter and sentinel. Other officers may be elected as deemed appropriate by the chapter. The teacher(s) of agriculture, food and natural resources shall be the FFA advisor(s). Chapter officers shall be elected annually by the members present at a regular meeting or called special meeting of the chapter. Procedures for electing officers and specific duties of each office are described in the bylaws of this chapter.

Section B. Pursuant to the provisions of the national and state constitutions, all chapter officers shall have attained the Greenhand FFA degree, with the exception of the Student Advisor, Secretary, Vice-President, and President who must have attained the Chapter Degree.

Section C. Officers shall serve from the end of the chapter meeting at which they are installed to the end of the next succeeding chapter meeting at which officers are installed.

Section D. The elected officers of the chapter shall constitute the executive committee which shall convene to plan the activities of the chapter. Standing committee chairpersons may also be named as members of the executive committee. All policy decisions of the executive committee must be approved by the chapter. Telephone conferences of the executive committee may be called and considered meetings provided that all participating members may participate and be heard simultaneously.

Section E. Pursuant to the applicable constitutional, bylaw and policy provisions of the district, area and state associations and of the National FFA Organization, this chapter may nominate candidates for offices above the chapter level in a manner consistent with the provisions of its bylaws and policies. Candidates for district and area office shall have attained the chapter degree at the time of the district or area election. Candidates for state office shall hold the state degree at the time of the state election. Candidates for national office shall hold the American Degree at the time of their election to office.

Section F. President and Vice-President must be a junior or senior, Student Advisor must be a senior.

ARTICLE VII - Committees

Section A. The standing committees of the chapter shall be described in the bylaws. The chapter may, at any meeting, create additional standing committees.

Section B. The chapter president shall appoint all committees and committee chairs. The terms of all committees shall expire on a date described in the chapter's annual strategic action plan. Committee expiration may vary depending on duties but no standing committee term shall extend past the end of the fiscal year. The president shall have the authority to remove or reassign any committee chairperson or member, with the consent of the advisor.

Section C. No committee shall have the authority to expend chapter funds (unless expressly authorized to do so), amend the chapter's constitution, bylaws or policies, appoint or remove a committee member, or take any action outside the scope of authority delegated to it by the chapter.

ARTICLE VIII - Dues

Section A. Local dues in this chapter shall be fixed annually by a majority vote of the active members.

Section B. Full local, district, area, state and national dues shall be paid by all active members.

Section C. No member shall be considered as active and in good standing unless he/she pays full local, district, area, state and national FFA dues.

ARTICLE IX - Meetings

Section A. Meeting dates and times shall be fixed by the chapter's executive committee with the advice and consent of the chapter advisor. Special meetings may be called by the president, by a majority vote of the executive committee or by the chapter advisor(s). Meeting agendas shall be posted in a manner consistent with operating rules or procedures adopted by the chapter.

Section B. A quorum shall exist when one-quarter of the chapter membership is present.

Section C. Proxy and cumulative voting are prohibited.

ARTICLE X - Amendments

Section A. This constitution may be amended or changed at any regular or special chapter meeting by a two-thirds vote of the votes cast by a quorum of active members present providing it

is not in conflict with the National FFA Organization or Texas FFA Association constitution, bylaws or policies Amendments must not conflict with the policies and/or regulations of the School District Name Independent School District. Members shall be notified by mail, electronic mail or classroom announcement at least 30 days prior to a meeting at which any constitutional amendment is to be considered.

Section B. Bylaws may be adopted to fit the needs of the chapter at any regular or special chapter meeting by a majority vote of a quorum of active members present providing such bylaws do not conflict in any way with the constitution, bylaws or policies of the Texas FFA Association, National FFA Organization or the School District Name Independent School District. Members shall be notified by mail, electronic mail or classroom announcement at least 30 days prior to a meeting at which any amendment to the bylaws is to be considered.

ARTICLE XI - Parliamentary Procedure

Section A. The *Parliamentary Guide for FFA* by Jarrell D. Gray shall be used as a guide for all chapter meetings. The latest edition of *Robert's Rules of Order* shall be the final authority in governing the actions of all chapter meetings.