

Deer Park FFA Chapter Constitution

ARTICLE I - Name, Mission and Strategies

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

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

Deer Park 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 Deer Park 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 bylaws of the Texas 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) Alumni; 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.

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. Either course must include a supervised agricultural 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 local, district, area, state, and national dues 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 filed with the membership committee.

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. Greenhand FFA Degree. Minimum qualifications for election:
(Refer to National Constitution.)

1. Be enrolled in agricultural education 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 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 C. Chapter 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 at or above the ninth grade level, have in operation an approved supervised agricultural 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 award programs.
8. Must have a satisfactory scholastic record.
9. Must submit a written application for the Chapter FFA Degree.

Section D. State FFA Degree. Minimum qualifications 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 E. 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.

Section F. State and National Trips will be based on the following:

1. Open and active SAE program
2. Activities in LDE and/or CDE
3. Officer elections
4. No student will be able to attend the National convention more than Once unless they are returning on their second time for a National Award

Section G. Loss of Membership Privileges

1. A member who has shown characteristics other than those as referred to in Article III, Section D may face suspension of all active FFA member privileges upon review of the Deer Park FFA Advisors and Administration.

ARTICLE VI – Chapter, District, Area, State, and National 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 teacher(s) of agricultural education shall be the FFA advisor(s). Chapter officers shall be elected annually or semi-annually by the members present at any regular meeting of the chapter.

Section B. The Deer Park FFA chapter officers shall be elected by the following procedures:

1. Electoral vote by the members at a special election meeting which will consist of 30% of the final score. A short 2-4 minute speech will be given by each candidate.

2. An interview which will consist of 35% of the final score. Persons interviewing will be selected from outside of District VI and outside of Area III when possible.

3. A test which will consist of 35% of the final score. The test will include information from the FFA Manual and Parliamentary Manual.

4. The percentage score of the electoral vote, percentage score of the interview, and percentage score of the test will be added together for each candidate. The candidate having the lowest total numerical value will be President, second lowest total will be Vice President, and so on following the list from Section A. Any ties will be broken by the electoral vote, with the higher vote recipient being positioned appropriately.

5. As an example: Candidate #1 receives the 4th most popular votes, the 3rd best test score, and places 2nd in the interview. The math would be as follows; $[4 \times .3] + [3 \times .35] + [2 \times .35] = 2.95$

Candidate #2 receives the most popular votes, the 5th best test score, and places 6th in the interview. The math would be as follows;

$$[1 \times .3] + [5 \times .35] + [6 \times .35] = 4.15$$

In this scenario, Candidate #1 would be President, and Candidate #2 would be Vice President.

Section C. The Deer Park FFA Chapter President must have served a minimum of one (1) year on a Deer Park FFA Chapter Officer Team.

Section D. All other advanced offices will be elected using the system described for Deer Park FFA Chapter Officers if more than one qualified candidate seeks election.

ARTICLE VII - Dues

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

Section B. Full local, 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, state and national FFA dues.

ARTICLE VIII - Amendments

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

Section B. Bylaws 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 bylaws do not conflict in any way with the constitution and bylaws of either the state association or the national organization.