

Friendswood FFA Chapter Constitution

Amended October 10, 2012

ARTICLE I – Name and Purpose

Section A. The name of this organization shall be the Friendswood FFA Chapter of the National FFA Organization. The letters “FFA” may be used to designate the chapter, its activities, and/or members thereof.

Section B. The purpose of the FFA is to make a **positive difference** in the lives of students by developing their potential for **premier leadership, personal growth** and **career success** through **agricultural education**.

ARTICLE II - Organization

Section A. The Friendswood 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 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. Attend local Chapter meetings with reasonable regularity.
2. Show an interest in and take part in the affairs of the chapter
3. Pay their dues
4. Abide by the FFA Code of Ethics
5. Are enrolled in at least one agricultural education class during the current school

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 four degrees of active membership based on individual achievement. These degrees are: (1) Greenhand FFA Degree, (2) Chapter FFA Degree, (3) State FFA Degree and (4) American FFA Degree. 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 a knowledge of the FFA Code of Ethics and the proper use of the FFA jacket.
5. Demonstrate a 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 show progress toward individual achievement in the FFA award programs.
6. Must have a satisfactory scholastic record.
7. 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 state 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.

ARTICLE VI - 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 teacher(s) of agricultural education shall be the FFA advisor(s). Chapter officers shall be elected annually by 9th, 10th, and 11th grade members present at the last regular chapter meeting of the school year. Officers shall perform the usual duties of the respective officers as listed in the Official FFA Manual.

Section B. To hold an office in the Friendswood FFA Chapter, the officer must be enrolled in an agricultural science class the year that the office is being held. Failure to do so will result in officer relinquishing that office.

1. All members wishing to seek an office must fill out an application.
2. Officers will be selected based on the following criteria
 - a. Complete application (20%)
 - b. Chapter popular vote (20%)
 - c. Interview with a panel of community members, local agricultural science teachers, and/or school personnel (30%)
 - d. FFA and Parliamentary Procedure test (30%)
3. All criteria will be totaled, and officers assigned to position according to score
4. In the event of a tie, it will be broken by the popular vote.

Section C. To run for office, the candidate must meet the minimum qualifications:

- 1) Complete an officer election application
- 2) Take a written quiz over parliamentary procedure and the FFA organizational information (taken from Gray's Parliamentary Guide and Official FFA Manual).
- 3) Read, agree, and sign a contract of office, which will be supplied by the FFA Advisors.
- 4) Attend an interview with a panel of teachers and/or community leaders.
- 5) The candidate will be required to run for all offices.
- 6) The candidate must enroll in one or more Agricultural Science Course(s) for the entire school year for which the candidate will serve as a Friendswood FFA Officer.

Section D. Chapter Officers must sign and return a contract of office.

Section E. An officer may be removed from office for violation of the responsibilities of office. A violation of the responsibilities of office will result in a probationary period. The second violation will result in termination of office.

Section F. Provisions for removing a member from a chapter office.

Upon the 1st violation of any of The Duties of Office, the officer will receive a written notice of the violation. The notice will require the signature of all advisors, the officer, a parent/guardian, and the CTE director. A copy will be filed with the Director of the Career and Technology Education Department and in the advisor's office.

Section G. Officer Meetings will be held bi-weekly as deemed appropriate by the advisors.

Section H. Provisions for called officer meetings and cancellations. Meetings may be called as needed. Notification of meetings will be the responsibility of advisor(s). Urgent meetings can be called as necessary.

Section I. In the event that more than one student wishes to run for District, Area, or State office there will be an election held at the chapter level in order to determine a chapter representative for each level (District, Area, or State). The election process will follow the Chapter's Guidelines for electing chapter officers. The student with the highest score will be the chapter's representative.

ARTICLE VII - Dues

Section A. Local dues in this chapter shall be fixed annually.

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 – Jr. FFA

Section A. The Junior FFA is designed to encourage involvement in agricultural science education. To this end, chapters are encouraged to develop and participate in local activities that promote leadership development and agricultural education for its junior members.

Section B. The Junior FFA members are not eligible to participate in events in which Texas FFA Association has direct oversight including but not limited to leadership development events, career development events, speaking development events, state FFA rodeo, and agriscience fair. Junior membership activities shall include exhibition of livestock and poultry projects. Local, county, regional and statewide shows and other agricultural education partners may include junior members in other events such as but not limited to agricultural mechanics shows and judging competitions.

Section C. The Friendswood Jr. FFA shall fall under the supervision of the Friendswood FFA and will be expected to follow the rules and ethics set forward in the constitution and the FFA Manual. In addition, the Jr. FFA members are to be supervised and held accountable for their actions by the Friendswood High School FFA Advisor(s).

Section D. The Jr. FFA is open to students at Friendswood ISD, grades 3-8 who have an older sibling in the Friendswood FFA Chapter or parent is employed by Friendswood ISD. Enrollment will be subject to verification.

Section E. Jr. members will be eligible to participate in livestock shows and contests as determined by the FFA advisor. Use of the FISS Agriculture Facility is not guaranteed by Jr. FFA members.

Section F. The Jr. FFA Chapter will submit yearly, a roster to the State FFA Association that includes the name, date of birth, age, grade and address of each member

Section G. Junior members are not eligible to cast a vote or participate in the discussion related to the official business of the Texas FFA Association or of any district, area association, do not count toward membership totals for delegate allocation and should not be listed on active membership rosters.

Section H. The membership year begins September 1 and ends August 31.

Section I. Once a student is eligible to enroll in an agricultural science class of any kind, (s)he is not eligible for junior membership

ARTICLE X - 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.