Lexington FFA Chapter

Constitution & By – Laws

Proposed for adoption 9/4/19

Purposes

Section A. Mission Statement (from the National FFA Organization) FFA makes a positive difference in the lives of students

by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agriculture education.

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

1. To develop competent and aggressive youth leadership.

2. To develop an awareness of the global importance of agriculture and its contribution to our well being.

3. To strengthen the confidence of students in themselves and their work.

4. To promote the intelligent choice of a career pathway.

5. To encourage individual achievement through supervised agricultural experiences (SAE).

6. To develop competencies in communications, human relations and social interactions.

7. To build character and promote citizenship, volunteerism, and patriotism.

8. To promote cooperation and cooperative attitudes among students.

9. To encourage excellence in scholarship.

10. To provide organized recreational activities for all members.

Membership

Section A. Membership in this chapter shall be as follows:

1. High School : Students must be enrolled in an agriculture science course at Lexington High School during the semester(s) of membership and pay annual dues. Dues will be set annually at the first fall meeting.

2. Junior FFA: Students must attend school in the Lexington I.S.D or an advisor approved private school, be in the 3rd grade and 8 years old. Students must meet at least one of the following to be eligible for membership.

-Relative who resides with a high school member.

-Parent/Relative is an employee/administrator/school board or former employee/administrator/school board of Lexington I.S.D.

-Parent is an advisory board member

-A member at the end of the current school year.

Membership will end at the time student enters high school. Jr. membership privileges are limited to exhibiting livestock. Junior FFA members will abide by the same Constitution and By-laws as high school members. Dues for JR members will be set annually at the first fall meeting.

Officers

Section A. Chapter officers serve as a vital part of the Lexington FFA Program. It should be the officer's’ goal to lead by example and encourage other members to participate in chapter activities. Officers are expected to be present for all chapter functions and should refer to the chapter’s annual program of activities for their duties as a team member.

Section B. The following positions will be considered annually on the local level.

1. Local candidate for state office.

2. Local candidate for area office.

3. Local candidate for district office.

4. Chapter officers: president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, reporter, sentinel, student advisor, historian, parliamentarian, chaplain, and 2-3 student council positions. Student council representatives would be called upon to fill an office in the event an officer was to move from the district or if an officer was unable to fulfill his/her duties/ responsibilities to the chapter (refer to annual chapter program of activities for specific duties).

Section C. Eligibility requirements for local officers.

1. Officer candidates must have fulfilled all requirements for the

“Greenhand” degree; must have participated on at least one of the following: Texas FFA CDE., LDE, FFA competitive speaking CDE or any other approved FFA contest as a team member.

2. Officer Candidates must be an active, paid FFA member in good standing.

Any officer who is assigned AEP, or is assigned to ISS for more than 2 offenses or for more than six days will forfeit his/her office.

3. Officer Candidates must be academically eligible at time of election.

4. Any officer candidate who is convicted of a criminal act must forfeit his/her office.

Section D. Officer Appointment Process

Officer positions will be filled by a 3-part process consisting of an application,

an interview, and a chapter vote. Officer candidates must complete all areas to be considered for an office. Each part will make up 1/3 of the total score. The highest-ranking scores will be appointed as officers.

1. Applications will be scored from information given by the candidates.

2. The interviewing committee shall consist of two-three community leaders who have a background or working knowledge of the FFA. The interviewing committee will rank each candidate.

3. The candidate will give a 1-3 minute speech to paid members and the members will vote on all candidates.

4. The FFA advisors will tabulate the application scores, interview scores and the popular vote scores.

Section E. Officer Removal Process

Any officer who fails to meet the requirements, duties, or expectations may be removed from office with the completion of the following process.

1. A 2/3 vote of the remaining officers.

2. A 2/3 vote of the FFA chapter.

3. Unanimous approval of the advisors.

4. Approval of principal and/or superintendent.

 Contests in the FFA Section A. Team /individual selection for participation.

The following is a list of contests in the FFA that the Lexington chapter may compete in annually. Team member selection/appointment will be based on criteria developed

by the team coach or advisor. The method of qualifying for each contest is listed below.

Contest Selection/Appointment Process

Texas FFA-Career Development Event Must apply for participation; compete

(i.e.Livestock evaluation, horse judging, etc.) in pre-contest practical qualifier(s).

Team members will be ranked on a cumulative average for selection. Some events may require completion of agricultural courses related to contest.

Texas FFA-Leadership Development Event Must apply for participation; compete

(i.e,Chapter conducting, FFA skills ) in pre-contest practical qualifiers; local contests may be necessary for some events.

Major Livestock show evaluation contests

(i.e. livestock judging, horse judging etc.) Must apply for participation; must compete at qualifying contests (county fairs, etc.) Team members will be ranked by cumulative averages

Section B. Eligibility/ Dress for team/individual participation

1. All students, regardless of grade-level or contest

event, must be academically eligible (per TEA Guidelines) to compete in FFA contests.

2. Advisors will post/announce after-school practice sessions as the need arises for additional training. All team members are expected to attend practice sessions. Failure to attend practice sessions can result in elimination from team or individual competition.

3. LDE participants are expected to conform to official dress at each contest above the local level that LDE team participates in. Official dress will be as described in the current FFA Student Handbook.

4. All TEA guidelines will be followed.

5. All FFA member will be subject to district drug testing policy.

Livestock SAE exhibition/participation

The purpose of a Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) is to allow students to design a program to gain hands-on experience and develop skills in an agricultural career area that interest them while promoting teamwork, unity, and responsibility.

Section A. Approved livestock show list, where members can expect advisor supervision.

1. County and Major Shows-Lee County Junior Livestock Show; State Fair of Texas (Dallas); Southwestern Exposition & Livestock Show (Ft. Worth); San Antonio Livestock Exposition; Star of Texas Fair and Rodeo

& the Houston Livestock Show, and San Angelo Livestock Show.

2. TJLA (Texas Junior Livestock Association): Belt Buckle Bonanza-Waco, Pecan Classic Steer and Heifer Show- Seguin, Fall Classic-Waco, and Washington Co. Fair-Brenham when not conflicting with State FFA Convention, Leadership Camps, or Ag. Teachers Conference.

a. Advisors are not required to supervise student’s project(s) while at a TJLA sanctioned event (other than the aforementioned shows).

b. The Lexington FFA chapter will not be held responsible while a member is participating in a TJLA event without advisor supervision.

3. Advisor(s) will be available for supervision when 3 or more projects are entered per species at the aforementioned shows.

Section B. Livestock Show Guidelines, Chapter guidelines, Entry Requirements

1. FFA members exhibiting a project as part of their

S.A.E, under the supervision of the local advisor(s) at the county or major show level, must adhere to the policies stated in the show’s premium book or list of rules. Exhibitors failing to comply with the show’s rules can be suspended

indefinitely. Lexington FFA members must be in accordance with the rules of the major livestock shows pertaining to fitting and feeding, and also must comply with the Drug Certification Agreement and the USDA Wholesome Meat Act. (Example: HLSR Ownership Certification/Fitting Rule)

2. No entries will be accepted by the advisor(s) after the deadline date set by the chapter.

3. Prior to purchase, the advisor(s) should approve all animal projects.

4. The advisor(s) will coordinate a schedule of show related guidelines for exhibitors to adhere to (i.e.—feeding times clean-up shifts, clipping, travel, hoof trimmings etc).

5. All exhibitors who enter a Major or the County show under Lexington FFA

must stall with Lexington FFA during the entire show.

6. When the advisors deem it necessary, Lexington FFA will utilize an Adjunct Staff Member as defined by LISD policy, and in accordance with the livestock show rules, to help assist in the supervision of students and students’ SAEPs while preparing for and exhibiting at major and county livestock shows.

7. Exhibitors failing to comply with chapter guidelines will be suspended from further project exhibition as a part of the Lexington FFA chapter.

Section C. Student/ S.A.E. Transportation and overnight accommodations

1. Hauling arrangements to the livestock shows will be coordinated by the advisor(s). Parent/guardians of students exhibiting an S.A.E. may be asked to transport livestock. Liability releases will be available, if requested by parent/guardians. These travel arrangements must be made at least a month prior to show.

2. The advisors will notify the students when overnight accommodations have been made for the advisors. Parents will be responsible for making their own overnight accommodations. Students will be responsible for all of their expenses incurred.

Section D. Calf Scramble participation/selection guidelines

1. When Lexington FFA is offered calf scramble positions from the major livestock shows (Ft. Worth, San Antonio, Austin or Houston), the following guidelines will be used to determine calf scramble candidates:

A. A completed application must be submitted to the show office. B. A letter of intent must accompany show’s application.

C. The advisors will forward all qualified student applications to the stock show offices for consideration.

D. Students will be given one opportunity to participate in the calf scramble. No catch, no second chance.

Lexington FFA Advisory Committee

Section A. Aims and purposes

The Advisory Committee will serve the advisors by assisting in the following areas:

1. Assist in planning courses to be offered in the agricultural science department.

2. Assist in determining the classroom and shop/lab materials and supplies necessary for instructional purposes.

3. Assist in planning, implementing, and co-supervising activities for the FFA

chapter throughout the year.

4. Assist in conducting annual program evaluation per T.E.A guidelines.

5. Assist in hiring new agricultural science teachers for Lexington ISD.

Section B. Officers and Called meetings

1. The committee elects the following officer positions for the term of 2 years:

president, vice-president, secretary and treasurer.

2. The FFA chapter advisor(s), the advisory committee president, or any 2 of its members may call a business meeting with adequate notice prior to the meeting (at least 7 calendar days).

3. Agenda for meetings must include the following:

-Call to order -Minutes of the previous meeting

-Treasurer’s report -Other old business requiring action

-New business -Adjourn

Fundraisers

Section A. FFA members will be called upon in the Fall and Spring to assist the chapter’s treasury by participating in fundraisers.

1. Examples: -Fruit, sausage and smoked meats

-Football Concession Stand

Section B. Deposit of funds

1. Funds will be deposited into the Lexington High School FFA student activity account

Section C. Use of Funds

1. The FFA advisors and members will determine the needs of the chapter and its members, and will vote at a regularly scheduled meeting (with a quorum present) as to how funds generated from fundraisers will be disbursed.

Travel to State & National Convention /Chapter Trips

Section A. Travel to state and national FFA convention/chapter trips, will be based on the following: L.I.S.D. School Board approval, availability of funds, and student selection.

1. Student Selection for State and National Convention

Award finalists or winners

A. (American, Lone Star, Proficiency, Team Awards, Scholarships)

B. State, District, and Area officers

C. Star Chapter FFA member

D. Star Greenhand

E. Chapter officers who have not attended convention

F. Chapter officers

2. Student Selection for Chapter Trips

A. Students must accumulate appropriate number of points as per the FFA Point System.

B. Students may not have more than 3 days of ISS per school year.

C. Students that have been suspended or placed in AEP are not eligible to attend.

Section B. Academic eligibility for travel to national convention

1. Students planning to travel to the national FFA convention will present their reported grades to the advisor. All class assignments must be current and all student grades reported must equal or exceed 80.

 Parliamentary Law

“Parliamentary Guide for FFA” by: Jarell D. Gray, 3rd Edition (2015) shall be the accepted authority for parliamentary procedure.

Amendments

This constitution and by-laws may be amended only at a regular meeting by a 2/3 vote of the members present provided they represent a quorum.

The objective of the constitution and by-laws is to acquaint FFA members and their families with the local policies of our FFA chapter. Opportunities for agricultural science students and FFA members are addressed and justified in this document.