

# San Marcos FFA Constitution

## Article 1: Name, Mission & Strategies

Section A: The name of this organization shall be the San Marcos FFA. Members are hereby referred to as San Marcos FFA members.

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. 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 2: Organization

Section A: The San Marcos FFA Organization is a member of the River District, Area VII, and the Texas FFA Association which is chartered by the National FFA Organization.

Section B: The San Marcos FFA accepts, in full, the provisions in the constitution and by-laws of the Texas FFA Association, as well as those of the National FFA Organization.

Section C: The San Marcos FFA will be under the supervision of the current agriscience teacher(s) serving as the advisors of the San Marcos FFA.

Article 3: 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: All members must comply with San Marcos CISD Code of Conduct or consequences may result in removal from the organization.

Section D: 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 E: 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. Junior membership will be allowed only for the purpose of exhibiting animals under the San Marcos FFA organization.

To be eligible to be a junior member of the San Marcos FFA, the proposed member must:

- Be eligible for enrollment at San Marcos CISD
- Be a child of a current San Marcos FFA advisor or be a sibling of a current San Marcos FFA member
- Pay junior FFA member dues

\_\_\_\_\_ Section F.: Names of applicants for membership shall be filed with the secretary and/or the chairman of the membership committee.

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

\_\_\_\_\_ 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 4      Emblem

Section A:      The emblem of the National FFA Organization shall be the emblem of the San Marcos FFA chapter.

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

## Article 5 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 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. As of May 15, 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 policies adopted by the Board of Directors.
9. As of May 15 of the year the member is to receive the degree, 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 (36 months), 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 earning 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.

- 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 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 San Marcos FFA Handbook.
- Section B. Pursuant to the provisions of the national and state constitutions, all chapter officers shall have attained the chapter FFA 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.

Article 7      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 8: Dues

Section A: Dues for membership in the San Marcos FFA shall be set by the current officers. Membership shall be for a one year period from October 1 thru September 30 each year. Local dues in this chapter shall be fixed annually.

Section B: The by-laws may be adopted or changed to fit the needs of the San Marcos FFA at any regular meeting by a two-thirds vote provided a 30 days notice has been given. Such changes must not conflict with the Texas or National FFA organizations.

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

Section D. 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 9: 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 40% of the chapter membership is present.

Section C. Proxy and cumulative voting are prohibited.

Section D: Regular meetings will include fall and spring meetings and the San Marcos FFA Banquet. The dates of meetings will be designated by the chapter officers and the current San Marcos agriscience teachers.

Section E: Standard meeting paraphernalia will be used at each meeting. Standard ceremonies and Jarrell Gray's Parliamentary Procedures will be used.

Section F: The attendance of members at meetings will constitute a quorum. Transactions of business by vote will be standard procedure at these meetings with those members present constituting a quorum.

#### Article 10 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 San Marcos Consolidated 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 11 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.

# San Marcos FFA Chapter Bylaws

## Article 1 Relationship to Constitution

The Bylaws shall be a part of the Constitution of the San Marcos Chapter of FFA.

## Article 2 Location of Offices

The headquarters and principal office of the San Marcos Chapter of FFA shall be at 2601 Rattler Road, San Marcos, Texas 78666.

## Article 3 Program of Activities

Section A: San Marcos FFA Officers will develop a program of activities listing official area and district functions, to include fall and spring meetings, banquets, and other activities. Other functions that officers may decide on should also be included.

Section B: Contests such as Leadership Development Events and Career Development Events will be conducted in accordance with state and national rules. The Career Development Events (CDEs) and Leadership Development Events (LDEs) will be selected from the official list on the Texas FFA website. The teams will be chosen based on the agriscience teacher's discretion.

Section C: To be a participating member of our program of activities of the San Marcos FFA, dues must be paid annually and you must be a member of good standing.

## Article 3 Procedures for Electing Officers

Section A: San Marcos FFA officers will consist of the President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Reporter, Sentinel and the possibility of a Student Advisor, Historian, Chaplain or Parliamentarian at the discretion of the current San Marcos agriscience teachers. The current agriscience teachers will serve as San Marcos FFA Chapter advisors.

Section B. Officers will be elected annually at a spring meeting. Officers candidates must turn in the officer election paperwork by the deadline on the packet. The chapter officer election documents can be found in the San Marcos FFA Handbook.

Section D. All written materials related to a chapter election shall be deposited and retained in a secure location for no less than 30 days following the announcement of election results.

Section E. Appeals or protests related to a chapter election shall be filed pursuant to the grievances procedures of the School District Name Independent School District.

Article 4 Duties of Officers

Section A. It shall be the duty of all officers to fulfill the responsibilities described in the officer contract adopted by the chapter and agreed to by each officer at the time of declaring candidacy for chapter office. Additional responsibilities may be assigned per the San Marcos FFA Chapter Advisors at any time.

Section B. The duties of all chapter officers can be found in the San Marcos FFA Handbook.

Article 5 Resignation, Removal of Officers, Officer Vacancies

Section A. The advisor or the executive committee with the advice and consent of the advisor, may, with good cause, remove any officer elected by the chapter. Good cause shall include, but not be limited to, violation of the provisions of the chapter's officer contract, violation of chapter or departmental rules of conduct, violation of the school code of student conduct or violation of state or federal laws.

Section B. Any officer may resign at any time by giving written notice to the advisor, president or secretary. Such resignation shall take effect at the time specified in the notice, and, unless otherwise specified in the notice, the acceptance of such resignation shall not be necessary to make it effective.

Section C. Should the office of president become vacant; the vice president shall assume the title and duties of president. The executive committee may appoint an interim officer to fill any other vacancy until the chapter elects a qualified replacement.

Section D: San Marcos FFA Officers will be issued strikes as deemed necessary by the current San Marcos FFA advisors. Strikes may be

issued for failure to complete officer duties, failure to attend mandatory events, and failure to comply. Three strikes will result in removal from office at the discretion of the Executive Committee. Additional information is listed in the officer election packet found in the San Marcos FFA Handbook.

Article 6      Committees

- Section A.      The standing committees of the chapter shall be in harmony with the National FFA Organization's Quality Standards for Local Chapters. The committee designations and descriptions contained in these bylaws shall be amended to reflect the most current Quality Standards for Local Chapters adopted by the National FFA Organization for the membership year following revision of such standards. Such amendments shall be made without action by the chapter.
- Section B.      Each active member of this chapter shall be assigned to a committee which is deemed commensurate to the member's interests, talents and skills. The chapter shall not be obligated to staff all committees, but any of the standing committees may be activated by the chapter president without the action of the chapter.
- Section C.      Each standing committee shall develop and submit to the executive committee a plan within the committee's scope of responsibility and a corresponding budget within the timelines prescribed by the president. Each committee shall make regular and timely reports to the chapter concerning progress towards its respective goals.
- Section D.      The standing committees of the chapter and their respective duties are:
- (1)      Growing Leaders-Leadership shall plan and execute activities which help the individual develop technical, human relations and decision-making skills to grow leaders.
  - (2)      Growing Leaders-Healthy Lifestyles shall plan and execute strategies which promote the well-being of students mentally or physically, in achieving the positive evolution of the whole person.
  - (3)      Growing Leaders- Scholarship shall plan and execute strategies which develop a positive attitude toward lifelong learning experiences.
  - (4)      Growing Leaders-Personal Growth shall plan and execute strategies which improve the identity and self-awareness of members, striving to enhance the quality of life and contribute to members' life goals and development.

- (5) Growing Leaders- Career Success shall plan and execute strategies which promote student involvement and growth through agriculture-related experiences and/or entrepreneurship and promote career readiness.
- (6) Building Communities-Environmental shall plan and execute strategies to preserve natural resources and develop more environmentally responsible individuals
- (7) Building Communities –Human Resources shall plan and execute strategies which improve the welfare and well-being of members and citizens of the community
- (8) Building Communities-Citizenship shall plan and execute strategies to encourage members to become active, involved citizens of their school, community and country.
- (9) Building Communities –Stakeholder Engagement shall plan and execute strategies to develop teamwork and cooperation between the local chapter and stakeholders.
- (10) Building Communities –Economic Development shall plan and execute strategies to improve the economic welfare of the community.
- (11) Strengthening Agriculture-Support Group shall plan and execute strategies to develop and maintain positive relations among FFA, parents and community leaders interested in supporting agricultural education.
- (12) Strengthening Agriculture –Chapter Recruitment shall plan and execute strategies to increase agricultural education enrollment and/or FFA membership and encourage greater participation.
- (13) Strengthening Agriculture -Safety shall plan and execute strategies intended to enhance safety in the community
- (14) Strengthening Agriculture –Agricultural Advocacy shall plan and execute strategies to articulate and promote agricultural programs, practices, policies and/or education to elicit action.
- (15) Strengthening Agriculture -Agricultural Literacy shall plan and execute strategies to help consumers become better informed about the production, distribution and daily impact of food, fiber and fuel.

Section E. Subcommittees of a standing committee may be created by the president, executive committee, advisor or by the committee with the permission of the president and advisor.

Article 7      Transactions of the Chapter

Section A.      The fiscal year of the chapter shall begin on July 1st and end on June 30th

Section B.      The chapter shall adopt policies and procedures consistent with the fiduciary policies, procedures and audit standards of the San Marcos Consolidated Independent School District.

Article 8      Grievances and Appeals

Grievances and appeals shall be addressed under the auspices of the student grievance policies and procedures of the San Marcos Consolidated Independent School District.