
State FFA Constitution & Bylaws

(As amended at the 87th State FFA Convention, May 29, 2015)

Article I. Name and Purpose

Section A

The name of this organization shall be the "Kansas FFA Association". The letters "FFA" or the words "Future Farmers of America" may be officially used to designate the organization, its units, or members thereof.

Section B

The purposes for which this organization is formed are as follows:

1. To develop character, train for useful citizenship, and foster patriotism, and thereby to develop competent, aggressive rural and agricultural leadership;
2. To create and nurture a love of country life by encouraging members to improve the home and its surroundings, to assist in rural development, to develop organized rural recreational activities, and to create more interest in the intelligent choice of farming and other ag-related occupations;
3. To encourage the practice of thrift; and
4. To strengthen the confidence of young men and women in themselves and their work, to encourage members in the development of individual farming programs, and to promote their permanent establishment in agriculture.

Article II. Organization

Section A

The Kansas FFA Association is the state organization of FFA. It consists of a chartered State Association which in turn is composed of local chapters. Collegiate chapters may also be organized under the direct jurisdiction of the chartered State Association.

Section B

Active chapters of FFA for students enrolled in school shall be chartered only in schools where systematic instruction in agricultural education is offered and taught by a properly certified/licensed agricultural education instructor. The FFA is to be an integral part of the organized instructional programs in agriculture and agribusiness as qualified for assistance under federal and state vocational occupations' legislation.

Section C

Collegiate chapters may be established in two or four-year institutions where agricultural courses are taught. Membership shall be open to students enrolled in agricultural courses or who are pursuing career objectives in the industry of agriculture. Such chapters shall be primarily designed for training their members in the knowledge and skills of advising and maintaining local FFA chapters.

1. Each collegiate chapter shall be chartered by and maintained under the authority of the Kansas FFA Association.
2. All activities of the collegiate FFA chapter shall be in harmony with the purpose, principles, and ideals of the FFA organization.
3. Activities for all collegiate FFA members shall be based upon the needs and interests of its members.
4. Only dues from collegiate and post-secondary members may be used to promote activities of collegiate and post-secondary chapters.
5. Collegiate chapter members shall pay state FFA dues as well as national FFA dues.

Section D

Local chapters will be in good standing with the State Association when the following items have been submitted to the state office by the published deadline shown in the current year's agenda calendar or by the next business day if the due date falls on a weekend or holiday.

1. A report on any changes of amendments to the local chapter constitution or bylaws.
2. An annual chapter report will be due on May 20th, complete with a list of the chapter officers for the coming year.
3. FFA roster of members, along with their dues, their complete addresses, and the status of their membership submitted electronically is due September 30th.
4. An annual FFA program of activities submitted by October 15th.

Section E

The Kansas FFA Executive Committee shall have the power to suspend the charter of any local chapter, which violates the Kansas and/or National FFA Constitution and Bylaws. A report of all suspensions shall be presented by the Executive Committee to the delegates at the next succeeding state convention.

In the event a local department of agricultural education is discontinued, its' chartered FFA chapter may officially operate for a period not to exceed three years (36months) from the date of discontinuance, provided proper supervision is given by a person having the approval of the local school administrator and the state FFA advisor. The chapter's charter must be surrendered to the state advisor at the end of the three-year period if a local department of agricultural education is not in operation in the school at that time.

Article III. Membership

Section A

Membership in this organization shall be of four kinds: (1) Active; (2) Alumni; (3) Collegiate; and (4) Honorary.

Section B

Active Membership. Any student who is regularly enrolled in agriculture education is entitled to become an active member of any chartered FFA chapter. Local chapters may consider "secondary agricultural education programs" to be grades 7 – 12.

To retain membership while in school, the member must be enrolled in at least one agricultural education course during the school year. In-school members unable to enroll in at least one agricultural education course may retain membership for one year by continuing a supervised agricultural experience program approved and supervised by the agricultural education teacher. Out-of-school members may retain their active membership until November 30, following their fourth National FFA Convention after graduation from high school.

Upon transferring to a school that does not have an Agricultural Education program, students are able to retain their membership until the end of the school year (May) and then they will forfeit the rights and privileges of the Kansas FFA Association and its local membership opportunities.

A member who is in good standing at the time of induction into the armed forces of the United States of America shall be in good standing during the period of their active service without further payment of dues or attendance at meetings. Time spent in the armed forces shall not be considered as elapsed time in determining the maximum period of four conventions following graduation from high school or leaving high school. Members making use of this waiver of service time for the purpose of maintaining active membership for application for advanced degrees must resume active participation within six months after having been honorably discharged from service, indicating such a desire by payment of dues and attendance at meetings. Members participating in the six-months Armed Service Program shall be eligible for one full year of extended membership. No individual, however, may retain their active membership beyond their 23rd birthday.

Section C

Alumni Membership. Following the termination of active membership status, a former member becomes eligible for active Alumni membership.

Section D

Collegiate Membership. This may include all trainees preparing to teach agricultural education and former active FFA members of chartered local chapters who are enrolled in an institution having a collegiate chapter.

Section E

Honorary Membership. Supervisors, school superintendents, principals, members of boards of education, instructors, teachers of agriculture, businessmen, farmers, and others who are helping to advance agricultural education and the FFA and have rendered outstanding service may be elected to honorary membership by a majority vote of the members present at any regular meeting or convention.

Article IV. Active Membership Degrees and Privileges

Section A

There shall be five degrees of active membership based upon 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. The Discovery FFA Degree is intended for use in local chapters where middle school membership is offered. Receipt of this degree is not necessary in order to obtain the Greenhand FFA Degree or subsequent degrees.

Section B

Discovery FFA Degree- To be eligible to receive the Discovery FFA Degree, the member must meet the following minimum requirements:

1. Be enrolled in agricultural education 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 application for the degree.

Section C

Greenhand FFA Degree - The Greenhand FFA Degree may be conferred by the chapter on the member when the member meets the following minimum qualifications:

1. Be regularly enrolled in agricultural education and have satisfactory and acceptable plans for a supervised agricultural experience program.
2. Learn and explain the FFA Creed, Motto, Flag Salute and the FFA Mission Statement.
3. Describe the FFA emblem, colors, and symbols.
4. Explain proper use of FFA jacket, and demonstrate a knowledge of the FFA Code of Ethics.
5. Have satisfactory knowledge of the history of the FFA organization, the chapter constitution and bylaws, and the chapter Program of Activities.
6. Know the duties and responsibilities of FFA members.
7. Personally own or have access to an official FFA manual, and the FFA Student Handbook.
8. Submit written application for the degree for chapter records.

Section D

Chapter FFA Degree – The degree may be conferred by the chapter on the member when the member meets the following minimum qualifications:

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

improved supervised agricultural experience program, and be regularly enrolled in an agricultural education class.

3. Satisfactorily participated in at least three official functions in the chapter program of activities.
4. 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 developed plans of continued growth and improvement in a supervised agricultural experience program.
5. Demonstrate ability to effectively lead a group discussion for 15 minutes.
6. Demonstrate five parliamentary procedure abilities.
7. Demonstrate progress towards achievement of an agricultural proficiency award on the local level.
8. Have a satisfactory scholastic record in an agricultural course.
9. Submit application for degree for chapter records.
10. Meet other requirements as established by the chapter.
11. The members have an understanding of the official FFA record book.

Section E

State FFA Degree - Minimum qualifications for election:

1. Must have held the Chapter FFA Degree preceding election to the State FFA Degree, have been an active member of the FFA for at least two years and have maintained and completed two consecutive calendar years of record books which would follow the recommendations set by the Kansas Association of Agricultural Educators (KAAE), and indicate participation in activities of the local chapter.
2. Have completed the equivalent or at least two years (360 hours) of systematic school instruction in agricultural education at or above the ninth grade level, which includes a supervised agricultural experience program; if in high school, must be enrolled in an agriculture education course.
3. Receive instruction in and demonstrate proficiency in at least ten parliamentary procedure motions, documented and signed by the chapter advisor and submitted with the application.
4. Demonstrate leadership ability by giving at least a six minute oral presentation or speech on a topic relating to agriculture or the FFA, and serving as an officer and/or committee chairperson or a participating member of a major committee.
5. Have earned and productively invested at least \$2,000 by his or her own efforts from a supervised agricultural experience program, or have worked (other than scheduled class time) as least 600 hours. The student may use a combination of both dollars and hours that equal the whole.
6. Demonstrate leadership ability as evidenced by their leadership and cooperation in student, chapter, and community activities, and meet academic outcomes with an average of a "C" or better as defined by local superintendent or principal.
7. Have participated in at least eight different kinds of activities above the chapter level, determined by a compiled checklist developed by each district and formulated by the state degree committee.
8. Applications for the State FFA Degree must be approved by the chapter advisor and be sent to the State FFA Office by the date listed on the official Kansas FFA Calendar. The State Degree Selection Committee shall review the applicants and recommend those candidates meeting the minimum qualifications. Final approval of the candidates shall be given by the delegates present at the State FFA Convention.

Section F

American FFA Degree - Since this degree is awarded by the National Organization, the minimum qualifications are not defined by the Kansas FFA Association. Any qualified FFA member may apply for the American FFA Degree.

Article V. Emblem

Section A

The emblem of the FFA shall be made up of five symbols, namely: (1) the plow, representing the tillage of the soil, the bases of modern agriculture; (2) the owl, representing wisdom; (3) the rising sun,

representing progress; (4) a cross-section of an ear of corn, representing common interest, since corn is native to America and is grown in every state; and (5) an American Eagle, surmounting the cross-section of the ear of corn, indicating the national scope of the organization. The emblem shall also carry the three letters "FFA" and the words "Agricultural Education".

Section B

Emblems shall be uniform in all State Associations and reorganized units thereof. All members are entitled to wear the emblem.

Section C

"Greenhand FFA Degree" recipients are entitled to wear the regular bronze emblem degree pin; "Chapter FFA Degree" recipients are entitled to wear the regulation silver degree pin; "State FFA Degree" recipients are entitled to wear the regulation gold emblem charm.

Section D

"Honorary Chapter FFA Degree" recipients are entitled to wear either the regulation silver emblem degree pin or a similar pin in gold; "Honorary State FFA Degree" recipients are entitled to wear the regulation gold emblem charm.

Section E

Collegiate chapter members and advisors are entitled to wear an owl pin of official design.

Article VI. Officers

Section A

1. The officers of the Kansas Association shall be as follows: president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, reporter, sentinel, executive secretary, and advisor.
2. In the event there are 12 or more candidates at convention, a president, secretary, treasurer, reporter, and sentinel shall be elected annually by majority vote of the delegate's present at a regular state FFA convention. The runner-up for president shall become state vice-president without necessitating a majority vote.
3. In the event there are 11 or fewer candidates at convention, the nominating committee shall present a slate, determined with input from the present delegates. The slate shall consist of one candidate for each office of president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, reporter, and sentinel to be approved by a majority vote of the delegate body present at state FFA convention.

Section B

The Executive Committee of the Kansas FFA Association shall be composed of the president of the Kansas FFA Association, the KAAE president, the KAAE president-elect, and one FFA member from each district to be appointed by the district. Also, members on the Executive Committee will be the state FFA advisor, the state FFA executive secretary, a representative of the KSU College of Agriculture deans office, a representative of the KSU Agricultural Education department, and a representative of the Kansas FFA Alumni.

The immediate past state FFA president and all current state FFA officers who are not serving as voting members of the Executive Committee shall be consultants.

Section C

District and chapter officers shall consist of president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, reporter, sentinel, and advisor. Other officers may be elected as deemed appropriate by the governing body of the chapter or district. The district advisor will be selected by the district, and the local teacher of agricultural education shall assume the responsibilities of the local advisor. Officers of the local chapter and district organization shall be elected annually at a regular meeting of the local chapter or district organization. Officers must be eligible for or have obtained the Chapter FFA Degree after the chapter has been established for one year.

Section D

Honorary members shall not vote nor shall they hold any office except that of advisor in the local chapter, that of executive secretary, and advisor in the State Association.

Section E

No state officer may be reelected to an office. All state officer candidates shall have attained the State FFA Degree and have graduated high school prior to August 1st following the state FFA convention at which they are a candidate.

Section F

Any qualified active FFA member may run for a state office.

Section G

"Nominating Committee" - The State FFA President shall appoint the chair of the Nominating Committee from the immediate past state officer team, who will facilitate the functions of the committee. The committee will consist of three immediate past state officers, three former state officers, two industry representatives, two designees of the KAAE president, the state FFA executive secretary or his or her designee, and the state FFA advisor or his or her designee.

Article VII. Meetings

Section A

The State FFA Convention shall be held annually and should be at least 45 days prior to the National Convention at a time and place to be determined by the State Executive Committee.

Section B

Local chapters shall hold their meetings¹ monthly or more often throughout the calendar year and at such time and place as may be decided by the Executive Committee of the local chapter.

Section C

The State Association is entitled to send two delegates from the active membership to the National Convention.

Section D

Each local chapter shall be entitled to send two delegates from the active membership to the State FFA Convention.

Section E

A quorum shall exist at the State FFA Convention when both the following conditions are met at the time business is conducted: 1) a majority of the official delegates registered at the state convention are present and 2) at least one half of the local chapters are represented by official delegates at state convention.

Article VIII. Dues

Section A

Annual State membership dues shall be fixed by the state Executive Committee, subject to approval by a majority vote of the delegates present at the State FFA Convention and shall remain the same until changed by the delegates at a subsequent convention.

Section B

Any dues of a local chapter shall be fixed by a majority vote of the membership of that chapter.

Section C

District membership dues shall be collected by the State Association, subject to approval by a majority vote of the delegate's present at the State FFA Convention and shall remain the same until changed by the delegates at a subsequent convention.

Article IX. Amendments

Section A

Proposed amendments to the state constitution must be submitted in writing by local chapters 60 days prior to the State FFA Convention. A committee appointed by the president and approved by the Executive Committee may propose changes prior to any annual State FFA Convention. These proposed amendments must be reviewed by the Executive Committee which shall, in turn, submit them to the

delegates at State FFA Convention with recommendations. The text of all proposed amendments, together with the recommendations of the Executive Committee, must be sent to all chapters not less than 45 days in advance of the State FFA Convention which is to consider them. Amendments may be adopted or revisions made to the state constitution at any State FFA Convention by a two-thirds vote of the delegates present.

Section B

Bylaws may be adopted to fit the needs of the State Association or any unit thereof, provided they are not in conflict with the national or state constitution.

Section C

Method for adopting bylaws shall be the same as for adopting amendments.

BYLAWS

Article I. Duties of the State Officers

Section A

The president. It shall be the duty of the president to preside over State FFA Conventions and over all meetings of the State Executive committees. The president shall call one State FFA Convention each year. The president shall appoint all committees and may serve as an ex-officio member of these committees. In case the office of president becomes vacant by resignation or otherwise, the vice-president shall succeed the president.

Section B

The vice-president. The duties of the vice-president shall be to assist the president in whatever capacity the president may assign, as representing the president, working with committees, etc.

Section C

The secretary. The secretary shall perform the duties common to such an office, such as keeping accurate records of meetings of the Kansas Association.

Section D

The treasurer. The treasurer shall act as chairman of the auditing committee and assist the executive secretary in handling the financial business of the organization.

Section E

The reporter. It shall be the duty of the reporter to publicize FFA activities in ways established by the Executive Committee.

Section F

The sentinel. It shall be the duty of the sentinel to set up paraphernalia for the convention and to see that the hall is in order for the meeting. The sentinel shall occupy a place near the entrance to the hall and see the proceedings are not interrupted by unnecessary entering and leaving the room. The sentinel shall see to the registration and introduction of guests.

Section G

The executive secretary. The executive secretary shall keep all permanent records and reports of the organization; shall coordinate the work of state officers from one year to the next; shall prepare forms for and review applications for State FFA Degrees and other association awards; shall be in charge of arrangements for the annual State FFA Convention and shall complete necessary reports for the national office and may perform such other duties as directed by the state executive committee.

Section H

The advisor. The advisor is an ex-officio member of all committees. It is also the advisor's duty to advise the Executive Committee, delegates, and committees on matters of policy and assist the state officers in conducting meetings and carrying out programs.

Article II. Procedure for Issuing Charters to Local Chapters

Section A

A local chapter may be granted a charter with the Kansas FFA Association when the following has been submitted to the State Association office:

1. A letter of application requesting a chapter.
2. A list of the names of members and officers.
3. A copy of the proposed local chapter constitution and bylaws.
4. A copy of the program of activities.
5. Current district, state and national dues.

Article III. Collegiate Chapters

Section A

Collegiate chapters may be established in two or four-year institutions where agricultural courses are taught. Membership shall be open to students enrolled in agricultural courses, or who are pursuing career objectives in the industry of agriculture. Such chapters shall be primarily designed for training their members in the knowledge and skill of advising and maintaining local FFA chapters.

Section B

District organizations may set up a constitution establish dues and a program of activities as long as they are in harmony with the state and national constitutions.

Article IV. Code of Ethics

Section A

Kansas FFA Association expects their members to abide by the FFA Code of Ethics and to wear their FFA jacket properly while attending local, district, state and national FFA activities. This includes abstaining from the use of tobacco, alcoholic beverages and drugs as well as always showing respect for other people's property.

Section B

If a chapter becomes flagrant for misconduct, additional measures may be taken by the FFA Executive Committee.