

# Judson FFA Chapter Constitution

## ARTICLE I - Name, Mission and Strategies

**Section A.** The name of this organization shall be the **Judson FFA** Chapter of the National FFA Organization

**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 II – Organization

**Section A.** The Judson 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 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 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 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 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 - State and 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). Officers shall be elected annually by the combined scores of a majority vote of the members present at a regular meeting, and interview process, and a parliamentary test.

## **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.

**Section D.** In the event that the school district elects to pay the FFA Affiliation Fee, students will not be required to pay district, area, state, and national association fees to be active and in good standing. However, local fees may still be set by a majority vote of the active members present at a general meeting.

## **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 conflict in no way with the constitution and bylaws of either the state association or the national organization.

# Constitution By-Laws

## Article I

**Section A.** Delegates and others representing the chapter at meetings, conventions, judging contests, or other activities; MUST maintain a 70 or higher average and must dress appropriately and otherwise maintain exemplary conduct.

## Article II

**Section A.** The Agriculture Science classroom, shop, or other facilities may not be used for purposes other than class instruction or the furtherance of agriculture science activities without the approval of the advisors.

## Article III

**Section A.** Chapter Officer Election Process

1. All officers must fill out an application form and turn it in on or before the deadline set each year.
2. Students running for Chapter President must also submit an additional presidential candidate qualification sheet.
3. Officers will take a parliamentary test based on the FFA Manual and Rules of Parliamentary Procedure. The FFA Advisors will develop the test, to include multiple choice, true/false, and fill in the blank. The test will be administered prior to the election and will count twice towards the candidate's total score.
4. An interview will be conducted prior to the election and will count twice towards the member's total score. Interviews will be given with all Ag. teachers present and two other adults. The adults cannot be related to anyone in the FFA currently or running for office. The highest and lowest interview scores will be dropped, with the remaining scores averaged.
5. A speech and thought question will be given/answered at the meeting at which the election is to take place. Candidates not speaking will be sequestered during other candidate's speeches and questions. Candidates will draw numbers to receive their speech order. Speeches are not to exceed 3 minutes and one minute will be given for the thought question response. Timing begins when the candidate starts talking.
6. Chapter president will be voted upon first from all eligible candidates, followed by a vote for the remaining positions.
7. Popular vote of all FFA members present at a regular meeting will count three times towards the candidate's score.
8. Scores will be calculated using a ranking system. Once scores are calculated for the above areas, students will be ranked according to how they scored. The student with the highest score in an area will receive a one, the next a two, etc. Interview scores will be counted twice, test scores counted twice, and the popular vote ranking counted three times. Once a vote has been taken all scores will be tallied and the student with the lowest score will be the winner of the office.

9. In the case of a tie, interview scores will determine the winner. If a tie still exists, test scores will follow.

**Section B.** The qualifications for elective office are:

1. Must be a member in good standing of the FFA.
2. Must hold the Chapter FFA degree.
3. All officer candidates are to be familiar with and agree to abide by the FFA Code of Ethics.
4. All FFA candidates are to have knowledge of the FFA Mission and Strategies.
5. All officer candidates are to have commendable citizenship and conduct records (no ISS, alternative school, etc.) during the year of the election.
6. Officer candidates must have an average of “70” or better in all their classes from the previous semester and an average of “80” or better in all agriscience courses taken the previous semester.
7. Officer candidates must have participated in at least two chapter activities and must have completed or be in the process of completing a satisfactory Supervised Agricultural Experience Program. They must have also participated in a competitive FFA event (CDE, LDE, or speaking event).
8. In order to be eligible for chapter president, officer candidates must have met the following requirements during the year of election:
  - a. Participated in an LDE.
  - b. Participated in a CDE.
  - c. Have an SAEP.
  - d. Actively participated on a committee.
  - e. Have attended at least 90% of the years’ FFA meetings.

Once elected the following additional standards will apply:

1. Must be enrolled in an agricultural science class for the next year.
2. Must remain academically eligible. The first six weeks of ineligibility places the officer on probation. The second six weeks constitutes removal from office. Six week grading periods need not be sequential.
3. Must adhere to the FFA code of Ethics (FFA Manual).
4. Must have and wear official FFA dress when appropriate.
5. Must attend all FFA meetings unless given permission otherwise by an advisor.

**Section C.** In the event an officer is unable to fulfill their duties, the officers below will move up filling the vacancy. An election will be held to fill the vacant office.

**Section D.** District, Area, and State Officer Candidates

1. Must fill out an application form and turn it in on or before the deadline set each year.
2. If there is a single candidate, they may be elected to represent the chapter by general consent.
3. In the event that there is more than one candidate, the Chapter Officer Election Process listed in Article III Section A will be used.

## **Article IV**

**Section A.** The chairmen of the various standing committees will be appointed by the executive committee.

## Article V

Section A. The chapter shall have voting delegates to represent the chapter at District, Area, and State Conventions. The number of voting delegates shall be equal to or less than the number of delegates for Judson FFA as determined annually by the Texas FFA Association.

Section B. Voting delegates will be elected annually by a plurality vote of the members present at a regular meeting.

Section C. The qualifications for voting delegate are:

1. All applicants must fulfill and turn in a written application on or before the deadline set each year.
2. Must hold at least the Greenhand Degree of the FFA.
3. Must be familiar with and agree to abide by the FFA Code of Ethics.
4. Must have commendable citizenship (no ISS, OSS, alternative school, etc.) during the year of election.
5. Must have an average of "70" or better in all classes from the previous semester and an average of "80" or better in all agriscience courses taken the previous semester.
6. Must attend all District, Area, and State Conventions.
7. Must attend all Judson FFA meetings in Official FFA dress.
8. Must attend all Judson FFA chapter events.
9. Must serve as Courtesy Corp at the Chapter Banquet.

Section D. Vacancies can be filled by an appointment from the executive committee.