

James E. Taylor FFA

Chapter Constitution

ARTICLE I – Name, Mission and Strategies

Section A: The name of this organization shall be the James E Taylor FFA Chapter of the National FFA Organization and the Texas FFA Association. For competition and special activities, the name “Taylor-Katy” and official charter number “TX0873” will also be acceptable names for this chapter.

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

The James E. Taylor FFA chapter is dedicated to making a positive difference, together with family and the community, in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth, and career success through agricultural education that is designed to prepare and inspire each student to live an honorable, fulfilling life...*to create the future of agriculture.*

ARTICLE II - Organization

Section A: The James E. Taylor Chapter of FFA is a chartered local unit of the Texas FFA Association which is chartered by the National FFA Organization.

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

ARTICLE IV - General Membership

Section A: Membership in the chapter shall be of the kinds as defined in the National FFA Constitution:

- Junior; as offered under the FFA advisor's discretion
- Alumni
- Honorary
- Active

Section B: 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:

- 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 or natural resources career.
- 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.

- Pays all current local, district, area, state and national dues by the date determined by the chapter.
- 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.
- Students must meet all fundraiser requirements as predetermined by the supervisors. If students are unable to complete fall fundraising they will be required to attend a number of functions and events predetermined by the teachers.
- Meets all other local standards and requirements described in this chapter's by-laws and policies.

Section D: This chapter may offer to have a Junior FFA organization under the advisers discretion. Junior members must meet all Junior FFA membership requirements described in the Texas FFA Association Constitution and Policies.

Section E: Names of applicants for membership shall be filed with the Secretary and /or the chairman of the membership committee.

Section F: The membership year for this chapter shall begin on September 1 and end on August 31 of each year.

Section G: Honorary Membership - Candidates for the Honorary Degree can include but are not limited to:

- School superintendents
- Principals
- School board trustees
- Advisory committee members
- Chapter advisors
- Teachers
- Business people's
- Support group members and others

Candidates for Honorary Degree should be a person who is helping to advance agricultural education and FFA and who have rendered outstanding service. Honorary membership in this chapter shall be limited to the Honorary Chapter FFA Degree. Procedures for nominating and electing honorary members shall be described in this chapter's by-laws or rules.

ARTICLE IV - Active Member in good standing

Section A: Members must pay dues annually. Members in "good standing" have the right to vote on all issues before Taylor-Katy FFA Chapter.

Section B: Our chapter is governed by UIL eligibility requirements. Therefore, members must; will follow the UIL "No Pass, No Play" rule.

Section C: Members that are involved in LDE'S, CDE'S, and/or showing in the Katy ISD Livestock Show, are expected to:

- Attend all chapter meetings.
 - More than two (2) unexcused absences is considered unacceptable and will result in loss of “good standing” status.
- Be attentive and courteous during all meetings.
 - Any member being disruptive will be given one warning during the meeting; a second offense will result in the member being dismissed from the meeting. In this instance the member will receive an unexcused absence.
- Participate in the chapter fundraiser and ad sales with the set amount determined by the advisor(s).

Loss of Good Standing:

- That owes the chapter money for any reason (jackets, dues, shirts, fundraisers, etc.)
 - will be denied “good standing” status until all debts are paid in full.
- Found to be in violation of any Katy ISD rules (i.e. tobacco, nicotine products, alcohol, weapons, etc.) at any school sponsored event or on any Katy ISD properties
 - will lose their “good standing” status for a minimum of a semester and face the possibility of having their membership revoked

ARTICLE V - Emblems

Section A: The emblem of the FFA shall be the emblem for the Chapter.

Section B: Emblems used by the members shall be uniform and those obtained from concerns officially designated by the national FFA Organization.

ARTICLE VI - Social Media

Section A: Social media will be used following the guidelines of Katy ISD and James E. Taylor High School. Any use of the names of Taylor-Katy FFA, Taylor FFA, James E. Taylor FFA, and any other variations of James E. Taylor FFA can only be used with the discretion of the FFA advisor(s) and/or Katy ISD officials.

Section B: Posting on the official Taylor FFA social media pages is only permitted under the discretion of the FFA Advisor(s).

ARTICLE VII – Degrees and Privileges of Active Membership

Section A: There shall be five degrees of active membership in the Chapter based on individual achievement.

- All Discovery FFA members refer to the FFA Manual.
- 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 degree 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: Minimum qualifications for the degrees listed above can be found in the Official FFA Manual.

ARTICLE VIII – Officers and Executive Committee

Section A: The teacher(s) of agriculture, food and natural resources shall be the FFA Advisor(s).

Section B: The officers of the Taylor-Katy FFA chapter shall be:

- President
- Vice-President
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Reporter
- Sentinel
- Additional Officer Position(s) will be added at the discretion of the Executive committee.

Section C: 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 officer are described in the By-laws of this chapter. In the event that there are not enough qualified candidates; the qualified candidates will fill the necessary number of offices according to their rank.

Section D: All chapter officers shall have attained the chapter FFA degree. The president must have received their chapter degree and be a junior or senior in class standing. If no such candidate exists, the highest scoring candidate will be elected to president.

Section E: Officers shall serve from the end of the chapter banquet at which they are installed to the end of the next succeeding chapter banquet at which officers are installed.

Section F: The elected officers and FFA Advisors 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 be heard simultaneously.

Section G: The Taylor-Katy FFA in the fall semester shall elect Greenhand officers. The positions on this team shall be: President, Vice-president, Secretary, Treasurer, Reporter & Sentinel. They shall serve under the chapter officer team and have responsibilities that are determined by the chapter officer team.

Section H: 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 by-laws 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 IX – Committees

Section A: The standing committees of the chapter shall be described in the by-laws. The chapter may, at any meeting, create additional standing committees.

Section B: The chapter president shall appoint all committees and committee chairs. Unless specified by the chapter or the chapter executive committee, the terms of all committees shall expire at the end of the chapter officer terms. The president shall have the authority to remove any committee chairperson, with the consent of the FFA Advisor(s).

Section C: No committee shall have the authority to expend chapter funds (unless expressly authorized to do so), amend the chapter's constitution, by-laws or policies, appoint or remove a committee member, or take any action outside the scope of authority delegated to it by the chapter.

ARTICLE X – Dues

Section A: Local dues in this chapter shall be fixed annually by the executive committee.

Section B: Full local, district, area, 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, district, area, state and national FFA dues.

ARTICLE XI – Meetings

Section A: A quorum shall exist when 20% percent of the chapter membership is present.

Section B: Proxy and cumulative voting are prohibited.

Section C: Members that miss a meeting will be penalized and be required to makeup with an hour of community services, within the chapter, under the discretion of the ag teachers.

ARTICLE XII – 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, by-laws or policies.

Amendments must not conflict with the policies and/or regulations of the Katy ISD. Announcements of amendments will be posted, in writing, in each Agriculture Science Classroom for 10 class days prior to the vote on said amendments.

Section B: By-laws 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 by-laws do not conflict in any way with the constitution, by-laws or policies of the Texas FFA Association, National FFA Organization or the Katy ISD.

ARTICLE XIII – Parliamentary Procedure

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.

James E. Taylor FFA

By-Laws

ARTICLE I – Officer Duties

Chapter officers serve as a vital function in the FFA organization. By taking a major leadership role, these students grow from their experiences and benefit the chapter. It should be the officer's goal to lead by example and participate in chapter activities. Officers of the Taylor-Katy FFA chapter should possess the following qualities:

- A genuine desire to be a part of a leadership team.
- A willingness to accept responsibility.
- A sincere desire to work with their leadership, personal, and chapter goals.
- A commitment to lead by example.
- A knowledge and understanding of the chapter, state and national FFA Constitutions, by-laws, and programs.
- A working knowledge of parliamentary procedure.
- An ability to memorize their parts in the official ceremonies.

ARTICLE II – Requirements for running for office

To run for chapter office members must meet the following requirements and complete the election process.

- Candidates must be dues paying members.
- Candidates must have member in “good standing” status.
- Candidates must attend all required leadership functions.
- Candidates must have UIL eligibility prior to the first phase of the election process.
- Candidates seeking the office of President held a Chapter officer position previous to running for presidency. The president must have received their chapter degree and be a junior or senior in class standing. If no such candidate exists, the highest scoring candidate will be elected to president.

ARTICLE III – The Election Process

- A. Test - 30%
 - a. All candidates shall take a test on FFA facts, history, and parliamentary procedure.
 - b. The candidates will be provided with a study guide at least one week prior to the testing date.
 - c. The test will be made using Judgingcard.com Test Bank and written as a “Chapter Member” Difficulty.
- B. Interview - 30%
 - a. All candidates will have a private interview with a panel of judges.
 - b. The interview panel will be made up of unbiased community members and can include, but not limited to, agriculture science teachers, Taylor high school teachers, and community members.
 - c. Panelists should have no affiliation with any of the candidates.

- C. Application - 10%
 - a. All candidates must submit their typed application.
 - b. Applications will be scored by a panel of judges.
- D. Vote - 30%
 - a. All candidates must write and present a speech (one to two minutes in length) before the members at the designated meeting.
 - b. Candidates will receive votes from the members present at the designated meeting.
 - c. Their vote will be based on the speeches presented and each member's general knowledge of the candidate.
- E. Tiebreaker
 - a. Ties will be broken based on independent scores in the following order: vote, interview, application, and test.

ARTICLE IV - Expectations of Officers

Officers in the FFA hold a very prestigious position and much is expected of them. All general rules of membership apply to the Officer team as well as the following stipulations:

- Officers must maintain eligibility in all subjects. Loss of eligibility during a six weeks grading period will result in that officer being placed on probation.
- Officers may have no more than two unexcused absences from any required function. The first absence will result in a verbal warning, the second in probation, and the third in removal from office.
- Officers must attend all leadership functions, all conventions (except National convention), all camps, all chapter and special meetings, and participate in all fundraisers.
- Officers are to try out for at least one LDE and CDE team.
- Officers are expected to lead by example. The conduct of an officer should always be honorable; any unethical, embarrassing, disruptive, or disrespectful conduct is means for probation or removal from office.
- Officers will be subject to a demerit system as written and approved by executive committee.
- Any officer in violation Katy ISD rules (i.e. tobacco, alcohol, weapons, etc.) at any school sponsored event or on any Katy ISD properties will be removed from office and face the possibility of having other membership privileges revoked.
- If an officer vacates an officer position, filling of the position of the removed officer will be under the discretion of the executive committee. If the position should be replaced, the election process will follow the officer election process as listed in the constitution.

ARTICLE V – Standing Committees

- A. Each committee will be chaired/co-chaired by chapter members in good standing.
- B. Additional committee members are to be made up of chapter members.
- C. Committees are to meet at least once a month and submit a report at each meeting.
- D. Special committees will be appointed as necessary.

E. Standing Committees are the following:

- Growing Leadership
- Building Communities
- Strengthening Agriculture
- Subcommittees will be defined in the chapter's Program of Activities

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