

Constitution of the Brazosport FFA Chapter

I. General

- A. The name of the organization shall be the Brazosport FFA Chapter of the National FFA Organization and may be commonly referred to as Brazosport FFA.
- B. Brazosport FFA will abide by all rules and regulations set forth by the Texas FFA Association and by the National FFA Organization.
- C. Brazosport FFA will abide by all rules set forth by Brazosport ISD and by Brazosport High School.

II. Organizational Mission and Goals

- A. Brazosport FFA will work to develop the following:
 - 1. Increased awareness of the global and technological importance of agriculture and its contribution to our well-being.
 - 2. Strengthened confidence of agricultural students in themselves and their work.
 - 3. Establishment of an intelligent and realistic agricultural career.
 - 4. Establishment of and achievement in an SAE Project.
 - 5. Wise management of economic, environmental and human resources of the community.
 - 6. Strong interpersonal skills, including teamwork, communications, human relations and social interactions.
 - 7. Good character and citizenship, volunteerism and patriotism.
 - 8. Healthy lifestyles.
 - 9. Excellence in scholarship.

III. Membership

- A. Types of membership allowed by the Brazosport FFA Chapter will be (I) Active, (II) Junior, (III) Alumni, and (IV) Honorary.
- B. Active members must meet the eligibility requirements set forth by the Texas FFA Association and by the National FFA Organization.
- C. All FFA members will abide by the FFA Code of Ethics and by the Brazosport ISD Code of Conduct.
- D. Members will take an interest in the affairs of the chapter by attending meetings, applying for degrees and awards, and participating in other chapter events.
- E. Active Members will be considered "in good standing" when they meet the following criteria:
 - 1. They have paid the full amount of Brazosport FFA dues. Dues for the Brazosport FFA Chapter will be \$25.
 - 2. They are enrolled in at least one agricultural science course during both semesters of the current school year.
 - 3. They have attended at least six FFA meetings during the school year.

4. They have an approved SAE project. Approved projects are consented by the FFA Advisors.
 5. They contribute a satisfactory amount of sales, labor or time to annual fundraisers. Satisfactory may be defined by the FFA Advisors each year.
- F. Junior Members will be considered "in good standing" when they meet the following criteria:
1. They have paid Brazosport FFA dues.
 2. They have attended at least four FFA meetings during the school year.
 3. They have an approved SAE project. Approved projects are consented by the FFA Advisors.
- G. Membership will begin on September 1st of each year and end on August 31st of the next year.
- H. Alumni Members will operate under a separate constitution.
- I. Honorary Members will be nominated by the FFA Advisors or Active Members of the Chapter.
1. Honorary members are individuals or businesses that have made significant contributions to the Brazosport FFA Chapter through outstanding service.
 2. Honorary members must be voted upon by the Chapter and shall be considered approved by a majority vote of the chapter.
- J. Degrees of membership shall be awarded to members of good standing that also meet the requirements set forth by the Texas FFA Association and by the National FFA Organization.
1. Degrees that shall be awarded at the chapter level are the Discovery Degree, Greenhand Degree and Chapter Degree.
 2. Lonestar Degrees shall be awarded by the Texas FFA Association.
 - a) Records must be approved by an FFA Advisor by April 1st to be considered for Degree Check.
- K. American Degrees shall be awarded by the National FFA Organization.
- L. Misrepresentation of the Brazosport FFA Chapter will result in probation or removal from the organization and any teams within the organization.

IV. Officership

- A. The Chapter Officers of the Brazosport FFA Chapter shall be the following:
1. President
 2. Vice President
 3. Secretary
 4. Treasurer
 5. Reporter

6. Sentinel
 7. Student Advisor
- B. To be considered eligible for office, candidates must meet the following criteria:
1. The candidate must be a member in good standing.
 2. The candidate must be passing all academic courses with a grade of 75 or higher.
 3. The candidate must have minimal referrals and disciplinary actions. Minimal may be defined by the FFA Advisors each year.
 4. The candidate must participate in the entire election process.
- C. Each officer shall fulfill their duties according to the Texas FFA Association and the National FFA Organization.
- D. Officers will serve from the end of the FFA meeting of which they are installed to the beginning of the FFA meeting of which new officers are installed.
- E. The elected officers of the Chapter shall serve as the Executive Committee which shall plan all Chapter affairs. All actions of the Executive Committee shall be approved by the general membership of the Chapter.
- F. Candidates for District or Area Office must hold the Chapter Degree at the time of election.
- G. Misrepresentation of the Brazosport FFA Chapter will result in permanent removal from the officer team.
- H. Greenhand Officers may be elected during the first semester of the school year.
1. The Greenhand Officer positions will be the following:
 - a) President
 - b) Vice President
 - c) Secretary
 - d) Treasurer
 - e) Reporter
 - f) Sentinel
 - g) Student Advisor
 2. The FFA Advisors reserve the right to amend these positions each year with a $\frac{2}{3}$ majority vote from the Executive Committee.
 3. Greenhand Officers will be elected solely by popular vote at a Chapter Meeting in the fall semester.
 4. The following eligibility requirements must be met:
 - a) The Candidate must be a first-year FFA Member of the Brazosport FFA Chapter.
 - b) The Candidate must be passing all academic courses.

- c) The Candidate must have attended at least two Chapter Meetings during the fall semester in which they run for election.
5. Greenhand Officers will sign a Greenhand Officer Contract at the time of election and will abide by that contract until the end of their office.
6. Greenhand Officers may be removed from the team at any time by the FFA Advisors for breach of any contracts, constitutions or handbooks.

V. Meetings and Conventions

- A. Meeting dates and times shall be set by the Executive Committee with the consent of the FFA Advisors.
- B. Meeting agendas shall be available to all Active Members prior to the meeting date.
- C. A quorum shall exist when 50% of the Active Membership is present.
- D. The Parliamentary Guide for FFA by Jarrell D. Gray shall be the official guide for Chapter Meetings.
- E. Robert's Rules of Order shall be the official authority in governing the actions of all Chapter Meetings.

VI. Student Travel

- A. All students are required to have the appropriate documentation completed and on file before traveling with Brazosport FFA.
 1. "Appropriate documentation" is determined by the FFA Advisors at the beginning of each school year.

VII. Annual Awards

- A. Awards and Degrees shall be presented at the annual Brazosport FFA Banquet.
- B. Awards shall be determined by the FFA Advisors each year.
- C. Award and Degree recipients shall be nominated and approved by the Executive Committee and FFA Advisors each year.

VIII. Amendments

- A. This constitution may be amended at any Chapter or Special Meeting by a $\frac{2}{3}$ majority vote where a quorum is present providing that it is not in conflict with the Texas FFA Association or the National FFA Organization. Members must be notified at least 15 days in advance of the meeting where a constitutional vote will take place.
- B. This constitution may be amended at any Executive Committee Meeting by a $\frac{2}{3}$ majority vote providing that it is not in conflict with the Texas FFA Association or the National FFA Organization.
- C. Amendments must be in accordance with Brazosport ISD and Brazosport High School.

By-Laws of the Brazosport FFA Chapter

I. Relationship to Constitution

- A. The By-Laws are a part of the Constitution of the Brazosport FFA Chapter.
- B. The By-Laws may be amended following the same procedure constitutional amendments.
- C. The By-Laws may also be amended on a yearly basis by the FFA Advisors with a $\frac{2}{3}$ majority vote of the Executive Committee.

II. Location of the Offices

- A. The official offices of Brazosport FFA will be 1800 W. Second St., Freeport, TX 77541.
- B. Any correspondence should be at the attention of the current FFA Advisors.

III. Procedures of Electing Officers

- A. Brazosport FFA Officers shall be elected using the following criteria:
 - 1. Chapter Popular Vote - 10%
 - a) The popular vote shall be conducted at the April Chapter Meeting.
 - 2. Completed and signed Officer Application/Contract - 15%
 - a) Applications shall be judged by the interview panel.
 - 3. Completed and signed Officer Recommendation Forms - 20%
 - a) Three recommendation forms are required: one by the candidate's current agricultural science teacher and two by other teachers or supervisors of the candidate's choice.
 - b) Recommendation forms returned by family members or friends of the candidate will not be accepted.
 - 4. FFA Knowledge Test - 25%
 - a) The knowledge test will be conducted in the student's agricultural science class after all officer applications have been submitted.
 - 5. Panel Interview - 30%
 - a) The panel interview will consist of a Brazosport FFA Advisor, a guest FFA advisor, and a CTE department leader. Additional interviewers may be added at the discretion of the FFA Advisors.
 - b) Interview questions will be posted 24 hours before the panel interview will take place.
 - c) Interviews will be held on a date chosen by the FFA Advisors after all applications have been submitted. Candidates will forfeit their campaign if they do not attend the panel interview.
- B. Candidates will forfeit their campaign if they do not participate in each part of the election process.

- C. The FFA Advisors reserve the right to veto any decision made during the election process based on reasonable testament.
- D. The FFA Advisors reserve the right to amend the election process on a yearly basis according to the needs of the chapter with a $\frac{2}{3}$ majority vote of approval from the acting Executive Committee.

IV. Removal of Officers, Resignation, Vacant Offices

- A. The FFA Advisors reserve the right to remove any officer from officership based on the violation of the Brazosport FFA Constitution or Brazosport FFA Officer Contract.
- B. The Executive Committee reserves the right to remove any officer from officership based on the violation of the Brazosport FFA Constitution or Brazosport FFA Officer Contract with approval from an FFA Advisor.
- C. Any officer may resign at any time.
- D. The FFA Advisor may determine how to fill vacant officer positions based on the following options:
 - 1. All current FFA Officers may be allowed to move up into higher positions to fill any vacancies.
 - 2. A new FFA Officer may be elected following the same process as regularly elected officers, with the exception of the panel interview.
 - 3. A new or current FFA Officer may be appointed to the open position with approval from the Executive Committee. Approval is earned by a $\frac{2}{3}$ majority vote of the Executive Committee.

V. Probation and Removal of Members

- A. Any violation of rules or regulations set forth by the Texas FFA Association or National FFA Organization will result in probation or removal from Brazosport FFA.
- B. Any violation of rules or regulations set forth by Brazosport ISD or Brazosport High School will result in probation or removal from Brazosport FFA.
- C. Probationary periods, stipulations and termination will be determined by the FFA Advisor based on the severity and frequency of the offense/offenses.
 - 1. A CTE department leader will approve the probationary plan before it is adopted.
 - 2. Violation of probation will result in removal from the organization.

VI. Committees

- A. Standing committees will be the following:
 - 1. Executive Committee
 - a) The Executive Committee shall consist of the acting Brazosport FFA Officers.

- b) The members of this committee shall fulfill their individual officer duties as described by the National FFA Organization.
 - c) This committee shall plan Chapter and Special Meetings, foster positive relationships between Brazosport FFA members and develop chapter relationships with community members.
- 2. Growing Leaders Committee
 - a) The Growing Leaders Committee will consist of at least five FFA Members, two of which shall be acting Officers.
 - b) This committee is responsible for planning activities that develop the National FFA Quality Standards of Leadership, Lifestyle, Scholarship, Personal Growth, and Career Success.
 - 3. Building Communities Committee
 - a) The Building Communities Committee will consist of at least five FFA Members, two of which shall be acting Officers.
 - b) This committee is responsible for planning activities that develop the National FFA Quality Standards of Environment, Human Resources, Citizenship, Stakeholder Engagement, and Economic Development.
 - 4. Strengthening Agriculture Committee
 - a) The Strengthening Agriculture Committee will consist of at least five FFA Members, two of which shall be acting Officers.
 - b) This committee is responsible for planning activities that develop the National FFA Quality Standards of Support Groups, Chapter Recruitment, Safety, Agricultural Advocacy, and Agricultural Literacy.

VII. Awards

- A. Awards given at the annual Brazosport FFA Banquet will be based on participation in various FFA events and SAE Projects.
- B. The awards presented may include and are not limited to:
 - 1. Star Greenhand Award
 - 2. Star Chapter Farmer Award
 - 3. High Point Individual for CDE Contests
 - 4. AET Activity Award
 - 5. Most Active Awards (Greenhand, Chapter Farmer, Lone Star)
 - 6. Outstanding Freshman
 - 7. Outstanding Sophomore
 - 8. Outstanding Junior
 - 9. Outstanding Senior

VIII. Transactions of the Chapter

- A. The fiscal year of the Chapter will begin on September 1st each year and end on August 31st of the following year.
- B. The fiscal policies and regulations will follow those of Brazosport ISD and those of Brazosport High School.

IX. Grievances and Appeals

- A. Grievances and appeals shall be addressed under the auspices of the student grievance policy of Brazosport ISD.