

McLouth FFA Chapter Constitution

ARTICLE I - Name, Mission and Strategies

Section A. The name of this organization shall be the McLouth 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 McLouth FFA Chapter is a chartered local unit of the Kansas FFA Association, which is chartered by the National FFA Organization.

Section B. The McLouth FFA Chapter is a chartered unit of the Northeast District of the Kansas FFA Association.

Section B. This chapter accepts in full the provisions in the constitution and bylaws of the 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. Membership may be revoked by the discretion of the advisor. Causes for dismissal from FFA may include, but are not limited to: failure to comply with FFA and the McLouth Handbook policies and procedures.

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 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 – To be eligible to receive the Discovery FFA Degree from a chapter, 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 applications for the degree.

Section C. Greenhand FFA Degree. Minimum qualifications for election:
(Refer to National Constitution.)

1. Be enrolled in agricultural education 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 a 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 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 E. State FFA Degree. Minimum qualifications for selection:

1. Qualifications for the State FFA Degree are those set forth in the constitution of the Kansas FFA association and National FFA Organization.

Section F. 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 - 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).

Section B. Officer Responsibilities:

President: Officially represent the chapter in official functions and events, chairperson of leadership team, chapter spokesperson, and other typical presidential duties.

Vice President: Coordinate the Program of Activities committees and committee meetings, fill in for the president as needed.

Secretary: Handle all official chapter correspondence, prepare agendas for meetings and type minutes from each meeting.

Treasurer: Coordinate chapter finances, handle income and expenses for the chapter using a checkbook register, and oversee fundraising activities.

Reporter: Coordinate chapter public relations efforts, publish chapter newsletters, write or edit articles for the paper, and serve as chapter photographer.

Sentinel: Ensure attendance is taken at meetings, coordinate the points scale, assist the president when needed.

Section C. Each officer shall serve one year until the next selection period.

Section D. Nominations and Elections: Officers will be selected by a popular vote and outside selection committee which shall be determined by the advisor.

Paragraph 1: Eligibility: Any member seeking to become an officer must enrolled in an agricultural education class.

Paragraph 2: Nomination Procedures: Any student who wishes to apply for an office but fill out an application form and answer three essay questions.

Paragraph 3: Election Process: All applications will be reviewed by a popular vote and a selection committee. Each candidate will receive two scores (one for each category). The candidate receiving the lowest score overall serve as president. The second lowest overall scoring candidate will then pick from the remaining five offices and so on.

Section E. Should an officer fail to complete their term of office or fail to follow-through with their specific officer duties, the following procedure should be followed:

Paragraph 1: Resignations: In order to resign from an appointed office, the officer must submit a letter of resignation in writing to the advisor and the leadership team. Acceptable reasons for resignation would include moving and/or no longer being able to fulfill his or her capacities as an officer.

Paragraph 2: Removal: Any officer who fails to fulfill his or her responsibilities as an officer or fails to abide by the code of conduct or school policies may be removed by the advisor and school administration.

Paragraph 3: Filling Vacancies: If the leadership team believes a vacancy needs to be filled, they may nominate a candidate. If the candidate accepts the invitation to join the leadership team, the candidate must fill out the application form. A vote will go before the membership.

ARTICLE VII - Dues

Section A. The dues amount will be determined by an annual vote of the membership at a chapter monthly meeting.

Section B. Full local, state and national dues shall be paid by all active members in order to participate in any chapter functions or activities.

Section C. No member shall be considered as active and in good standing unless he/she pays full local, state and national FFA dues.

ARTICLE VIII - Committees

Section A. The chapter's standing committees will be known as the Program of Activities (POA) committees. Each committee will have one chair and may have additional co-charis if they are needed. Chairs will be determined on a volunteer basis. Every FFA member must serve on a committee chosen by the leadership team.

Section B. Special committees may be created if the leadership team or advisor decides one is needed to conduct business. The committees will be established by the president asking for volunteers.

Section C. Standing Committees: There are five Program of Activities Committees which will meet at least once each semester. These committees will meet during homeroom. The date will be set by the chair.

ARTICLE IX – Finances

Section A. Oversight: The treasurer and advisor will oversee the treasury through a regular system of auditing.

Section B. Source of Funding: A majority of the funding shall be supplied by the efforts of fundraising. Members may be asked to pay additional fees to attend CDE's, conferences, and conventions.

Section C. Maintenance of Funds: All incoming money must be documented in the FFA receipt book. The school secretary shall keep a record of all funds and deposit the money in the FFA account.

Section D. Disbursement of Funds: When there is a need for disbursement of funds, the advisor or treasurer shall fill out a requisition form which will be turned into the principal. Upon purchase of supplies the receipt must be turned into the district office.

ARTICLE X – Rules of Procedure

Section A. Meetings: Program of Activities meetings shall be held once a semester. Chapter meetings shall be held three times each semester.

Section B. Attendance: Attendance at any chapter function shall be the duty of the chapter student secretary.

Section C. Quorum: A quorum is the minimum number of members required to be present at a meeting in order to conduct business. This quorum shall be attained by having at least $\frac{1}{2}$ of the student members present.

Section D. Minutes: The minutes of regular chapter meetings shall be kept and maintained by the secretary. They shall include who called the meeting to order, the number of members in attendance, and whether or not the minutes of the previous meeting were read and accepted. Then, they shall include any business that was conducted and the outcome of any votes.

ARTICLE XI - 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 do not conflict in any way with the constitution and bylaws of either the state association or the national organization.