

# **BATESVILLE FFA CONSTITUTION**

## **ARTICLE I – Name and Purposes**

- Section A.** The name of this organization shall be the “Batesville FFA Chapter”. Members are hereinafter referred to and by the letters “FFA” and/or the words “Future Farmers of America”, and may be used to designate the chapter, its activities, or members thereof.
- Section B.** The mission of the FFA is to make a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education.
- Section C.** To accomplish the mission of the FFA, the Batesville Chapter strives to:
- Develop competent and assertive agricultural leadership.
  - Increase awareness of the global and technological importance of agriculture and its contribution to our well being.
  - Strengthen the confidence of agriculture students in themselves and their work.
  - Promote the intelligent choice and establishment of an agricultural career.
  - Encourage achievement in supervised agricultural experience programs.
  - Encourage wise management of economic, environmental and human resources of the community.
  - Develop interpersonal skills in teamwork, communications, human relations and social interaction.
  - Build character and promotes citizenship, volunteerism and patriotism.
  - Promote cooperation and cooperative attitudes among all people.
  - Promote healthy lifestyles.
  - Encourage excellence in scholarship.

## **ARTICLE II – Organization**

- Section A.** The Batesville Chapter of FFA is a chartered local unit of the Arkansas 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 Arkansas 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 work of this chapter shall be carried on by the active membership.

**Section C.** The local chapter may have alumni members, but they shall have their own constitution and only be affiliated with the local chapter.

**Section D.** Honorary membership in this chapter shall be limited to the Honorary Chapter FFA Degree.

**Section E.** 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. They pay their local, state, and national dues regularly.
2. They show interest in, and take part in the affairs of the chapter.
3. They attend local chapter meetings with reasonable regularity.

**Section F.** 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 – Membership, Degrees, and Privileges**

**Section A.** To be eligible for active membership in the local chapter, a student must be enrolled in an approved secondary agricultural education program, or have taken all of the agriculture that is offered in the local school. A member may retain active membership

until November 30, following the fourth National FFA Convention after graduation from high school or until their twenty-third birthday.

**Section B.** There shall be five grades of active membership in this chapter. These grades are: (1) the Discovery Degree, (2) the Greenhand FFA Degree, (3) the Chapter FFA Degree, (4) the State FFA Degree, and (5) the American FFA Degree.

All Discovery FFA Degree members are entitled to wear the regulation bronze pin that has the corn outlined in purple and the FFA letter are in purple. All “Greenhands” are entitled to wear the regulation bronze emblem pin. All members holding the Chapter FFA Degree are entitled to wear the 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 C.** Discovery Degree. Minimum qualifications for election:

1. Qualifications for the Discovery FFA Degree are those set forth in the Constitution of the State Association and the National FFA Organization.

**Section D.** Greenhand Degree. Minimum qualifications for election:

1. Qualifications for the Greenhand FFA Degree are those set forth in the Constitution of the State Association and the National FFA Organization.

**Section E.** Chapter FFA Degree. Minimum qualifications for election:

1. Qualifications for the Chapter FFA Degree are those set forth in the Constitution of the State Association and the National FFA Organization.

**Section F.** State FFA Degree. Minimum qualifications for election:

1. Qualifications for the State FFA Degree are those set forth in the Constitution of the State Association and the National FFA Organization.

**Section G.** American FFA Degree. Minimum qualifications for election:

1. Qualifications for the American FFA Degree are those set forth in the Constitution of the State Association and the National FFA Organization.

**Section H.** Special committees shall review the qualifications of members and make recommendations to the chapter concerning degree advancement.

## **ARTICLE VI – Officers**

- Section A.** The officers of the chapter shall be as follows: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Reporter, and Sentinel. The local FFA Advisor shall be the teacher of agriculture education in the school where the chapter is located. Officers shall perform the usual duties of their respected office as outlined in the *Official FFA Manual*.
- Section B.** Officers shall be elected annually by a majority vote of the members present at a regular chapter meeting.
- Section C.** The officers of the chapter together with the chairperson in charge of the major sections of the annual program of activities shall constitute the Chapter Executive Committee. The Executive Committee shall have full power to act as necessary for the chapter in accordance with actions taken at chapter meetings and various regulations or bylaws adopted from time to time.
- Section D.** Honorary and/or alumni members shall not vote nor shall they hold any office in the chapter.
- Section E.** Chapter officers must have been a member for at least one previous year, except during the first year after the chapter is organized. Officers shall have at least a 2.5 GPA (grade point average) and be currently enrolled in an agriculture education class.

#### **ARTICLE VII – Meetings**

- Section A.** Regular chapter meetings shall be held at least once a month during the year at such time and place as is designated by the Chapter Executive Committee. Special meetings may be called at any time.
- Section B.** Standard meeting paraphernalia shall be used at each meeting. Regular meetings shall open and close with the official ceremony. Parliamentary procedure shall be used in transacting all business at each meeting.
- Section C.** Delegates, as specified by the State FFA Constitution, shall be elected annually from the active membership to represent the chapter at the state convention. Other delegates may be named as necessary in order to have proper representation at various other FFA meetings within the state.
- Section D.** The members attending a regular scheduled meeting shall constitute a quorum.

#### **ARTICLE VIII – 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 they pay full local, state, and national FFA dues.

### **ARTICLE IX – Amendments**

**Section A.** This constitution may be amended or changed at any regular chapter meeting by 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.** By laws 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 by laws conflict in no way with the Constitution and bylaws of either the State Association or the National FFA Organization.

### **BYLAWS**

#### **ARTICLE I – Relationship to the Constitution**

The bylaws shall be part of the Constitution of the Batesville FFA Chapter.

#### **ARTICLE II – Officers**

**Section A.** Students nominated and elected to officer positions must have the talent and dedication necessary to lead the chapter and serve as positive role models. It must be the officers' goal to lead by example and encourage other members to participate in chapter activities. Chapter officer candidates shall fill out an officer candidate form and turn it in to the chapter advisor for presentation and consideration by the officer nominating committee before open elections are held. Only FFA members who have submitted an officer application form and have a 2.5 or higher GPA are eligible to run for a chapter office. The chapter advisor shall appoint the nomination committee and it will be made up of representatives from each high school grade level, graduating chapter officers and the local chapter advisor .

**Section B.** Officers who are unable to complete the duties of the office to which they were elected shall be replaced following the established procedures for normal officer election.

- Section C.** Officers are to be positive role models, therefore any officer that exhibits poor leadership qualities, attitude, moral character, attendance, scholarship, or conduct unbecoming an FFA member shall be removed from office. This may be done by a two-thirds vote of the membership present at the regularly scheduled FFA meeting or by the chapter advisor with the approval of the local school administration.
- Section D.** Officers are expected to provide their own Official Dress as described in the *Official FFA Manual*.
- Section E.** The following are general duties expected of chapter FFA officers: represent the chapter at FFA and other functions and activities; have a genuine desire to be a part of a leadership team; willingness to accept responsibility; sincere desire to work with all chapter members in meeting their leadership, personal and chapter goals; commitment to lead by example; knowledge and understanding of the chapter, state and national FFA constitutions, bylaws and programs; working knowledge of parliamentary procedure; know their part in the official ceremonies.

### **ARTICLE III – Committees**

- Section A.** Standing committees shall be appointed for the Annual Program of Activities. Committees shall include a chairperson and from three to six members for the following: Supervised Agricultural Experience Program (SAEP), Leadership, Scholarship, Healthy Life Style, Agriculture Careers, Recruitment, Finance/Economics, Public Relations, Support Group, Environmental, Human Resources, Citizenship, and Agricultural Awareness.
- Section B.** Additional committees may be appointed by the President as needed.

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revised August 26, 2018)