**Arlington FFA Chapter**

**Constitution**

**Article I – Name, Mission and Strategies**

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| The name of this organization shall be the Arlington FFA Chapter of the National FFA Organization | |
| 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**

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| **Section A.** | The Arlington Chapter of FFA is a characterized local unit of the Texas Association of FFA, which is characterized 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**

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| **Section A.** | Membership in this chapter shall be of three kinds of kids: (1) Active; (2) Alumni; (3) Junior; and (4) 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: |

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|  | | 1. | While in school, be enrolled in at least one agricultural education course during the school year and/or follow 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. | | |
| **Section F.** | This chapter may elect to have a junior FFA organization. Junior members must meet all junior FFA membership requirements described in the Texas FFA Association Constitution and policies. A junior member shall be considered in good standing when he or she:  1. Shows an interest in the affairs of the organization by attending junior member meetings.  2. Pays local and state dues by the date determined by the chapter.  3. Displays conduct consistent with the ideals and purposes of the National FFA Organization and with the school district’s code of student conduct.  4. Junior FFA membership in this chapter shall be limited to siblings of Active members and children of AISD FFA Alumni that are at least the age of 8 and are currently in 3rd - 8th grade. | | |
| **Section G.** | The membership year for this chapter shall begin on September 1 and end on August 31 of each year. | | |

**Article IV – Emblems**

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| **Section A.** | The emblem of the FFA shall be the emblem for the chapter. |
| **Section B.** | Emblems used by the members shall be designed by the national FFA Organization. |

**Article V– Degrees and Privileges of Active Membership**

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| **Section A.** | There shall be 5 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 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) |
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| 1. | Be enrolled in agricultural education and have satisfactory plans for a supervised agricultural experience program. |
| 2. | Learn and explain the FFA Creed, motto, salute and FFA mission statement. |
| 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 Official FFA Student Handbook. |
| 7. | Submit written application for the Greenhand FFA Degree. |
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| **Section D.** | Chapter FFA Degree. Minimum qualifications for election:  (Refer to National Constitution) |
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| 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 agriculture course. |
| 3. | Must have participated in the planning and conducting of at least three official functions in the chapter’s Program of Activities. |
| 4. | Must have earned and productively invested at least $150 by the member’s own efforts, or worked at least 45 hours in excess of scheduled class time, or a combination thereof, and have developed plans for continued growth and improvement in a supervised agricultural 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. |

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| **Section E.** | State FFA Degree. Minimum qualifications for election:  (Refer to National Constitution) |
| 1. | Qualifications for the State FFA Degree are those set forth in the constitution of the Texas FFA Association and National FFA Organization |
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| **Section F.** | American FFA Degree. Minimum qualifications for election:  (Refer to National Constitution) |
| 1. | Qualifications for the American FFA Degree are those set forth in the constitution of the National FFA Organization |

**Article VI– Officers and Executive Committee**

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| **Section A.**  **Section B.** | The officers 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). Chapter officers shall be elected annually or semi-annually by the members present at any regular meeting of the chapter. The officers shall perform the duties of their offices as described in the National Official FFA Manual.  To be an officer you must read and sign the Arlington FFA Chapter Officer Contract. |

**Article VII– Committees**

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| **Section A.** | The standing committees of the chapter shall be described in the bylaws. The chapter may, at any meeting, create additional standing committees per executive board. |
| **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 officer terms. The president shall have the authority to remove any committee chairperson, with the consent of the advisor. |
| **Section C.** | No committee shall have the authority to expend chapter funds (unless expressly authorized to do so), amend the chapter’s constitution, bylaws or policies, appoint or remove a committee member, or take any action outside the scope of authority delegated to it by the chapter. |

**Article VIII– Dues**

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| **Section A.** | Local dues in this chapter shall be fixed annually by a the Arlington FFA Officers and Advisors. |
| **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 standings unless he/she pays  full local, state and national dues. |

**Article IX– Meetings**

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| **Section A.** | Regular meetings shall be set by executive committee each school year, unless extenuating circumstances prevent convening a regular meeting on the set dates. Special meetings may be called by the president, by a majority vote of the executive committee or by the chapter advisor(s). |
| **Section B.** | A quorum shall exist when more than 50% of the chapter membership is present. |
| **Section C.** | Proxy and cumulative voting are prohibited. |

**Article X– Amendments**

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| **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. |

**Article XI– Parliamentary Procedure**

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| **Section A.** | The *Parliamentary Guide for FFA* by Jarrell D. Gray shall be used as a guide for all chapter meetings. The latest edition of *Roberts Rules of Order* shall be the final authority in governing the actions of all chapter meetings. |
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**ARLINGTON FFA Chapter**

**BY-LAWS TO LOCAL CONSTITUTION**

**I. Relationship to Constitution**

The Bylaws shall be a part of the Constitution of the Arlington Chapter of FFA.

**II. Location of Offices**

The headquarters and principal office of the Arlington FFA Chapter shall be at:

2212 Michigan Avenue

Dalworthington Gardens, Texas 76013

**I. OFFICER ELECTIONS**

A. The officers 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). Chapter officers shall be elected annually or semi-annually by the members present at any regular meeting of the chapter. The officers shall perform the duties of their offices as described in the National Official FFA Manual.

1. Chapter officers must apply for the office they seek. The applications must be submitted by stated date.
2. Officers will be interviewed by a committee and ranked.
3. Officers will take a written test over the FFA and Parliamentary Procedure.
4. Officers will be voted upon by the members attending the specially held meeting.
5. The percentages will be: Application- 10%, Interview- 30%, Test- 30% and Popular Vote- 30%.

**II. OFFICER QUALIFICATIONS**

A. All officer candidates are to know and agree to abide by the FFA Code of Ethics and the Arlington FFA Officer Contract.

B. All officer candidates are to have knowledge of The Mission and Strategies of the FFA Organization.

C. All officer candidates must have had high participation in current year’s activities. This involvement should be at least 2 of the following: leadership development event; career development event; received accomplishment award; top 10 meat sales person; or stock show participation

C. All officer candidates are to have commendable citizenship and conduct records.

D. All officer candidates shall have their official FFA dues paid.

E. To hold an office, the candidate must be enrolled in an agriculture science class the year of application and the school year that the office will be held. A student could also be an office aid for the Ag Department during the year of service.

E. Officer candidates shall meet the following respective scholastic requirements:

(a) Chapter officer candidates must have an average of "B" or better in past Agricultural Science courses and have an overall average of "B" or better in courses taken the semester immediately preceding officer elections.

(b) Chapter officer candidates must be passing all other classes to be considered for an officer position.

F. All officer candidates are to have a sincere desire to carry out the duties of the office to which they are elected.

G. All officers must agree to abide by the FFA Officer Rules as created each year by the Chapter Executive Committee and sign a statement agreeing to abide by them.

H. Officers are to carry out their duties as outlined in the official FFA Manual and as assigned by the President and approved by the Advisors.

I. The officers of the chapter together with the chairmen 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 by-laws adopted from time to time.

**III. TERM OF OFFICE**

A. The terms of office shall be for one year, ending after the newly elected officers are installed.

**IV. REMOVAL FROM OFFICE**

A. Officers may be removed from office for failing to meet the qualifications stated in the constitution and the Arlington FFA Officer Contract.

Officers may be removed from office if they receive 5 negative points according to the Officer Point System. (listed below)   
  
Failure to attend a scheduled meeting or event - 1 point each  
(Officer or Chapter Meeting, District Banquet, etc.)  
Failure to participate in a LDE/CDE/SAE - 1 point each  
Failure to participate in the Fruit & Meat/Plant Fundraiser - 1 point each  
Any No Call No Show - 2 points each

B. Officers must meet the same qualifications for holding office the second school semester as they did when elected; otherwise their term of office will expire.

C. An officer will be entitled to a full and impartial review and hearing by the executive committee. They may be temporarily or permanently dismissed from office. A decision will be based upon the facts.

**V. GENERAL PROVISIONS CONCERNING OFFICERS AND MEMBERS**

A. Membership may be temporarily or permanently denied for failure to abide by The National FFA Organization and Arlington ISD Code of Ethics.

**VI. OFFICIAL FFA CLOTHING AND ACCESSORIES**

A. Each individual member takes upon themselves the responsibility of wearing official clothing and accessories with dignity and pride so as not to reflect any bad criticism upon himself, the school, the FFA Organization, or the Local chapter.

**VII. OFFICIAL FFA AND SCHOOL EQUIPMENT**

A. All members will show pride in the FFA Organization in his/her school by properly caring for and using the facility, its equipment, and official paraphernalia in a proper, dignified manner.

**VIII. PUBLIC RELATIONS BY INDIVIDUAL MEMBER**

Each individual FFA member is to realize that they are a personal representative of their school and FFA Chapter. The image of their school and chapter are reflected through and by them as an individual. Aim for and achieve excellence.

**IX. ANNUAL CHAPTER AWARDS GIVEN AT PARENT/CHAPTER BANQUET**

1. Certificates of merit will be given to members for outstanding performance in the various phases of agriculture career and technology work.

2. Arlington FFA will award scholarships to graduating seniors who meet the following requirements.

A. The student must be a graduating senior from an Arlington high school.

B. Must have taken two years of agricultural science and be a bonafide active FFA member their senior year in good standing. An active member shall be considered in good standing if they: attend local Chapter meetings with reasonable regularity, show an interest in and take part in the affairs of the chapter, pay their dues regularly, abide by the FFA Code of Ethics.

C. Must show one involvement in FFA participation in three of the following areas: leadership development event; career development event; FFA officer/voting delegate; received accomplishment award; top 10 meat sales person; or stock show participation.

D. Must be planning to attend college or a technical school.

4. Scholarship recipient will receive payment after he/she has provided proof of enrollment to the agriculture science teachers. The scholarship is good for one year from date of FFA banquet when it is awarded.

5. The amount of the scholarship will be determined by the amount of money set aside that year for scholarships divided by the number of recipients.

**X. CONVENTIONS/STOCK SHOWS**

1. Arlington FFA shall attend the District 7, Area 5, and State FFA Conventions.

2. Attendees will be selected from the active membership.

3. State convention attendees must serve in some capacity at the convention to attend or be an award recipient or a participant in some form of competition at the convention. Graduating seniors may attend the convention only if they are receiving an award or participating in a contest or running for a state office.

6. Attendees Responsibilities:

A. Attend all sessions of the convention.

B. Attendee must wear official dress to all sessions unless the advisors specify not to.

C. Attendee will be representing Arlington FFA, Arlington I.S.D. and the community of Arlington. Therefore, all rules that apply at school will be in effect on the trip.

7. Convention Provisions:

A. Travel to and from the convention will be provided by Arlington I.S.D.

B. Hotel accommodations will be paid for by Arlington FFA. This does not include room service, telephone, or pay per view movies.

C. Arlington FFA will pay all convention registration fees.

**XIII. MEETINGS**

1. The Annual FFA Banquet will constitute the May meeting. The months of June, July, and August will not have meetings due to summer break.

2. The executive committee shall have power to act on any matters that need to be disposed of before a regular meeting.

3. Regular Chapter meetings shall be held at least once a month during the school year at such time and place as is designated by the FFA Advisors, and the Chapter may hold at least one regular meeting during the summer. Special meetings may be called at any time.