

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS HILL DISTRICT FFA

AREA VII OF THE TEXAS FFA ASSOCIATION 5/11/15

ARTICLE I - NAME AND PURPOSE

Section A:

The name of this organization shall be the "Hill District FFA." The letters "FFA" may be used to designate the chapter, its activities, or members thereof.

Section B:

The purposes for which this Hill District has been formed are as follows:

1. To develop competent, assertive agricultural leaders.
2. To develop an awareness of the global importance of agriculture and its contribution to our well-being.
3. To strengthen the confidences of agriculture students in themselves and their work.
4. To promote the intelligent choice and establishment of an Agriculture career.
5. To stimulate development and encourage achievement in individual agricultural experience programs.
6. To improve the economic, environmental, recreational and human resources of the district.
7. To develop competencies in communications, human relations and social abilities.
8. To develop character, train for useful citizenship, and foster patriotism.
9. To build cooperative attitudes among agricultural students.
10. To encourage wise management of resources.
11. To encourage improvement in scholarship.
12. To provide organized recreational activities for agricultural students.

ARTICLE II - ORGANIZATION

Section A:

The Hill District FFA is a chartered local unit of the Area VII and the Texas FFA Association which is chartered by the National FFA Organization.

Section B:

This Hill District 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.

Section C:

Schools making up the Hill District FFA include Jr. High Schools, Middle Schools and High Schools from the following school districts:

Blanco Boerne Champion Boerne High Center Point Comfort
Dripping Springs Fredericksburg Harper Ingram Johnson City
Junction Kerrville Tivy Mason Menard

Section D:

The advisors from the chapters in good standing, from the Hill District, shall elect each year an executive committee which consists of, but shall not be limited to, a president, vice-president, secretary, and treasurer. The Executive Committee shall have full power to act as necessary for the Hill District in accordance with actions taken at Hill District meetings and various regulations or by-laws adopted from time to time.

The District Executive Committee shall be responsible for:

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|----------------------------------|-----------|
| 1. Collection of District dues | Treasurer |
| 2. Ordering District awards | Treasurer |
| 3. Running the advisors meetings | President |

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------|
| 4. Keeping minutes of the meetings | Secretary |
| 5. Official correspondence for district | Secretary |
| 6. Validating district winning teams | President |
| 7. Handling grievances | President / Executive Committee |
| 8. Providing information to chapters | All Officers |
| 9. Assisting President with all duties | Vice-President |

ARTICLE III - MEMBERSHIP

Section A:

Membership in the Hill District is open to any school with an Agricultural Education Department meeting the requirement set up by the state constitution & residing in the Hill District.

Section B:

Membership in the Hill District shall be of two kinds: Active and Honorary, as defined by the National FFA Constitution.

Section C:

The regular work of this Hill District shall be carried on by the active membership.

Section D:

Honorary membership in this Hill District shall be limited to the Honorary District FFA Degree.

Section E:

Active members in good standing may vote on all business brought before the district. An active member shall be considered in good standing if they:

1. Show an interest in and take part in the affairs of the district.
2. Pay their dues regularly.
3. Abide by the FFA Code of Ethics.

ARTICLE IV - EMBLEMS

Section A:

The emblem of the FFA shall be the emblem for the Hill District.

Section B:

Emblems used by the Hill District FFA shall be designated by the National FFA Organization.

ARTICLE V - OFFICERS

Section A:

The officers of the Hill District shall be as follows: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Reporter, Sentinel, and Student Advisor. The Advisor(s) of the elected Hill District President shall serve as Hill District Advisor and will be in charge of the District Officer team at all official functions. All teachers of the Hill District Officers are to assist in planning and participating in all District functions. Officers shall perform the usual duties of the respective officers as listed in the Official FFA Manual.

Section B:

Officers shall be elected annually at the Hill District Banquet.

Section C:

Honorary members shall not vote nor shall they hold any office.

Section D:

Hill District officers must hold the degree of Greenhand and have satisfactory scholastic standing and a commendable citizenship and conduct record.

Section E:

Each high school in the Hill District is allowed only one candidate for office per school year. In the occasion, that an officer moves from one high school in the district to another high school in the district, that officer could retain his/her office for that school year.

Section F:

In the event of an officer moving out of the Hill District the remaining officers will move up to the next officer position. In the rare occasion that more than one officer, move away from the district, that office shall remain empty for that school year.

Section G:

In the event, that there are not enough candidates to fill all of the positions, a school *may* have more than one candidate. Once a candidate is elected from that school, the other candidate(s) will not be considered for a position until all other schools with candidates are represented as officers.

ARTICLE VI - MEETINGS

Section A:

Regular Hill District meetings shall be held during the school year at such time and place as is designated by the Hill District Executive Committee. Special meetings may be called at any time.

Section B:

Standard meeting paraphernalia shall be used at each meeting. All regular meetings shall open and close with the official ceremonies. Parliamentary procedure shall be used in transacting all business at each meeting.

Section C:

Hill District officers will be present at and conduct all district meetings.

Section D:

Meetings concerning district business will be designated and delegate should be present to transact business. These delegates are specified by the State Constitution.

Section E:

A majority of the chapters listed in the secretaries' roll of membership (the Hill District FFA Roster) will constitute a quorum and this quorum must be present at any regular meeting of which business is transacted or a vote taken committing the Hill District to any proposal.

ARTICLE VII – DUES

Section A:

Dues for the Hill District will be \$1.00 per member per year from each chapter.

Section B:

Chapters will be considered as active and in good standing when District, Area, State and National dues are paid in full. All fall due are to be paid by November 1st and Spring dues paid by March 1st. A copy of the chapter's roster and check must be mailed to the Hill District Treasurer.

ARTICLE VIII - AMENDMENTS

Section A:

This constitution may be amended or changed at any regular Hill District meeting by a two-thirds vote of the active membership present providing it is not in conflict with the State Association Constitution or that of the National Organization.

Section B:

By-laws may be adopted to fill the needs of the Hill District at any regular Hill District meeting, by a two-thirds vote of the active members present providing such by-laws conflict in no way with the constitution and by-laws of either the State Association or the National Organization.

Section C:

The proposed constitutional amendments and/or bylaws must be distributed to each school in the district at least twenty class days prior to the regular meeting of the membership at which it is to be presented.

BY-LAWS TO DISTRICT CONSTITUTION

Article I: FISCAL YEAR

Section A: The fiscal year will be from August 1st to July 31st of the following year.

Article II: DISTRICT OFFICER ELECTIONS

Section A:

The Hill District officers will be composed of at least six, but no more than seven, active members and will carry out the official business of the district.

Section B: District Officer Voting Process

Officers will be elected by a plurality vote of voting delegates present at the spring banquet/meeting. The election process is as follows:

- a. Each chapter may have one district officer candidate.
- b. Each candidate must present a speech no longer than 2 minutes to the delegate assembly at the spring banquet/meeting. Candidates will not be given a test or be asked questions.
- c. Voting – Each voting delegate will get two votes to cast for officer candidates.
 - i. The executive/balloting committee, will determine the need for runoff elections based on balloting results
 - ii. If a runoff election is deemed necessary, candidates will be allowed 1 minute for a follow up campaign speech.
 - iii. In runoff elections, each voting delegate will get to cast one vote.

Section C: Officer Qualifications

1. All officer candidates are to know and agree to abide by the FFA Code of Ethics.
2. All officer candidates are to have knowledge of The Mission and Strategies of the FFA Organization.
3. All officer candidates are to have commendable citizenship and conduct records.
4. All officer candidates shall have their official FFA dues paid.
5. District officer candidates must be passing all Agricultural Science courses and must have passed all Agricultural Science courses taken the semester immediately preceding officer elections.
6. All officer candidates are to have a sincere desire to carry out the duties of the office to which they are elected.
7. Officer candidates must be a sophomore in high school at the time of being elected.

Section D: District Officer Duties:

1. All 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
2. Other Officer duties include, but are not limited to:
 - a. Hill District Day Camp
 - b. Hand out and announce awards at the
 - i. District Land, Range, Plant ID & Homesite CDE
 - ii. District Leadership Contest
 - c. District Degree Check and Banquet
 - d. Area VII Convention
 - e. Area VII Leadership Camp

Section E: Term of Office

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

Section F. Removal from Office

1. Officers may be removed from office for failing to meet the qualifications stated in the constitution.
2. 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.
3. 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.

Article III. GENERAL PROVISIONS CONCERNING OFFICERS AND MEMBERS

Section A:

Membership may be temporarily or permanently denied for failure to abide by the Code of Ethics.

Article IV: AREA AND STATE OFFICER ELECTIONS

Section A:

Starting with the 2015-2016 school year the area officer selection process will follow current Area 7 FFA and Texas FFA Constitution and By Laws.

Section B:

State officer selection will follow current State FFA Constitution and By Laws.

Article V: JACKETS

Section A:

The Hill District Association will pay for one official Hill District FFA Officer Jacket for each elected officer. Jackets will be ordered by the Advisor serving as District Treasurer.

Article VI: DISTRICT CONTESTS

Section A: Fees and Awards

1. Fees for all contests are \$10.00 per contest entered. There will be a late entry fee of three times the original entry.
2. The top three teams in each contest will receive a plaque. If only one team is entered per contest, no plaques will be distributed.

Section B: District Events

1. All District contests will follow Area and State CDE/LDE Rules:
2. Fall CDE Events will include Land, Range, Plant ID and Homesite. A separate Hill District Contest will be set up. There is no limit on the number of contestants a school may enter in these events at the district level. The 3 highest scoring contestants will count towards the team total and the 4 highest scoring contestants will be the only contestants eligible for individual awards from that school. This same format will also be used for the Jr. and Sr. Quiz LDE's at the district level.
3. All other CDE events will be held in conjunction with the Area Contests. If there is no Area Contest, the State Contest will be used.
4. Leadership Development Events will be conducted during the fall.
5. Speaking events will be held during degree check in the spring.

6. The FFA Talent Contest will be held during the spring District FFA Banquet.
7. All student, chapter and VATAT awards will be selected at the Hill District Degree check in the spring.

Section C: Sweepstakes

An overall CDE and LDE Sweepstakes winner will be recognized each year.

Scoring will be as follows:

1. A maximum of five points will be awarded per event.
2. Teams will be given points as follows:

1 st	-	5 pts
2 nd	-	4 pts
3 rd	-	3 pts
4 th	-	2 pts
5 th	-	1 pt
3. If there are not at least five teams participating, points will be reduced according to the number of teams that participated. For example: if 3 teams competed, the points will be 3 for 1st, 2 for 2nd, and 1 for 3rd.
4. The school with the most points wins.
5. In the event of a tie, the team with the most 1st places will be the winner. (or 2nd, 3rd, etc.)

Article VII. OFFICIAL FFA CLOTHING AND ACCESSORIES

Section 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/herself, the school the officer is attending, the FFA Organization, or the Hill District.

ARTICLE VIII. OFFICIAL FFA AND SCHOOL EQUIPMENT

Section 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.

ARTICLE IX. PUBLIC RELATIONS BY INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS

Section A:

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