



Constitution and Bylaws

SINTON FFA

ARTICLE I. NAME AND PURPOSE

Section A. The name of this chapter shall be the *Sinton Chapter* of FFA.

Section B. The purposes for which this chapter is formed 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. To develop competent and assertive agricultural leadership.
2. To develop an awareness of the global importance of agriculture and it's contribution to our well-being.
3. To strengthen the confidence of agriculture students in themselves and their work.
4. To promote the intelligent choice and establishment of an agricultural 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 community.
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 agriculture students.
10. To encourage wise management of resources.
11. To encourage improvement in scholarship.

ARTICLE II. ORGANIZATION

Section A. The *Sinton Chapter* of FFA is a chartered local unit of the Texas FFA Association, which is chartered by the National FFA Organization.

Section B. This chapter accepts in full the provisions in the constitution and bylaws of the Texas FFA Association of FFA as well as those of the National FFA Organization and the policies of the Sinton Independent School District.

ARTICLE III. MEMBERSHIP

Section A. Membership in this chapter shall be of four kinds: (1) Active; (2) Alumni; (3) Honorary; and (4) Junior, as defined by the **Texas FFA Association membership policies**.

Section B. The regular work 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 in good standing when:

1. They attend at least 60% of all FFA meetings.
2. They show an interest in and take part in the affairs of the chapter.
3. Pay their dues regularly.
4. Be enrolled in at least one Agricultural Science and Technology course in SISD during the school year and/or follow a planned course of study; either course must include a Supervised Agricultural Experience Program (SAEP), the objective of which is to gain experience in agricultural related careers.
5. Display conduct consistent with the ideals and purposes of the Texas FFA Association and National FFA Organization.

Section E. Names of applicants for membership shall be filed with the membership committee.

Section F. Failure to comply with Sinton ISD School Policy could result in *suspended, probationary or terminated* membership. Please refer to the Sinton FFA Policy Manual for details.

Section G. 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. Meets all other local standards and requirements described in this chapter's bylaws and policies.

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. There shall be four degrees of active membership based on individual achievement. These are the Greenhand FFA Degree/Greenhand Degree, the Chapter FFA Degree/Chapter Farmer Degree, the State FFA Degree/Lone Star Farmer Degree, and the American FFA Degree.

Section B. Greenhand FFA Degree/Greenhand Degree -- To be eligible to receive the Greenhand FFA Degree from the chapter, the member must meet the following minimum qualifications:

1. Must be enrolled in Agricultural Science and Technology and have satisfactory plans for a supervised agricultural experience program.
2. Have learned and explained the FFA Creed, Motto and Salute.
3. Have described and explained the meaning of the FFA emblem and colors.
4. Have demonstrated knowledge of the FFA Code of Ethics and the proper use of the FFA jacket.
5. Have demonstrated knowledge of the history of the Organization, the chapter constitution and bylaws, and the chapter Program of Activities.
6. Have access to or personally own a copy of the Official FFA Manual and the FFA Student Handbook.
7. Have submitted an application for the Greenhand FFA Degree.

Section C. Chapter FFA Degree/Chapter Farmer Degree -- To be eligible to receive the Chapter FFA Degree from the chapter, the member must meet the following minimum qualifications:

1. Must have received the Greenhand FFA Degree.
2. Have satisfactorily completed the equivalent of at least two semesters of systematic school instruction in Agricultural Science and Technology at or above the ninth grade level, have in operation an approved supervised agricultural experience program, and be enrolled in an Agricultural Science and Technology course.
3. Have participated in the planning and conducting of at least three official functions in the chapter Program of Activities.
4. Have earned and productively invested at least \$50 and worked at least fifty hours in excess of scheduled class time and have developed plans for continued growth and improvement in a supervised agricultural experience program. The combination of hours and dollars must equal or exceed the number 200.
5. Have effectively led a group discussion for fifteen minutes.
6. Have demonstrated five procedures of parliamentary law.
7. Have shown progress toward individual achievement in the FFA awards program.
8. Have a satisfactory scholastic record.
9. Have submitted an application for the Chapter FFA Degree.

Section D. State FFA Degree/Lone Star Farmer Degree -- To be eligible for the State FFA Degree from the State Association, the member must meet the following minimum qualifications:

1. Have received the Chapter FFA Degree.
2. Have been active FFA members for at least two years (24 months) at the time of receiving the State FFA Degree.
3. Have satisfactorily completed the equivalent of at least four semesters of systematic school instruction in Agricultural Science and Technology at or above the ninth grade level, which includes a supervised agricultural experience program.
4. Have earned and productively invested at least \$200 and worked at least 200 hours in excess of scheduled class time, in a supervised agricultural experience program. The combination of hours and dollars must exceed or equal the number 800.
5. Have demonstrated leadership ability by:
 - a. Performing ten procedures of parliamentary law.
 - b. Giving a six-minute speech on a topic relating to agriculture or the FFA.
 - c. Serving as an officer, committee chairperson, or participating member of a major committee.
6. Have a satisfactory scholastic record as certified by the local agricultural science and technology instructor and the principal or superintendent.
7. Have participated in the planning and completion of the chapter program of activities.
8. Have participated in at least five FFA activities above the chapter level.

Written records of achievement of all requirements, verified by the chapter FFA advisor, shall be submitted to the State Association at least one month prior to the state FFA convention at which the State FFA Degree is to be received. The State FFA Advisor shall provide for a review of the records and submit a recommendation to the State Association governing body, which shall nominate at the State FFA convention the candidates who have been found worth to receive the honor. The State FFA Degree will be conferred upon the candidate subject to approval by the delegates at the state convention.

Section E. American FFA Degree -- To be eligible to receive the American FFA Degree from the National FFA organization, the members must meet the following minimum qualifications:

1. Have received the State FFA Degree, have been an active member for the past three years (36 months), and have a record or satisfactory participation in the activities on the chapter and state levels.
2. Have satisfactorily completed the equivalent of at least three years (540 hours) of systematic secondary school instruction in an Agricultural Science and Technology program or have completed the program of Agricultural Science and Technology at the school last attended.
3. Have graduated from high school at least twelve months prior to the national

- convention at which the degree is to be granted.
4. Have in operation and have maintained records to substantiate an outstanding supervised agricultural experience program through which a member has exhibited comprehensive planning, managerial and financial expertise.
 5. Have earned and productively invested at least \$7,500 or earned and invested at least \$1,500 and worked at least 2250 hours in excess of scheduled class time. Any combination of hours x \$3.33 plus dollars must be equal to or greater than the number 9000. Hours used for the purpose of producing earnings reported as productively invested income shall not be duplicated as hours of credit to meet the minimum requirements of the degree.
 6. Have a record of outstanding leadership abilities and community involvement and have achieved a high school scholastic record of "C" or better as certified by the principal or superintendent.

ARTICLE VI – OFFICERS

Section A. The officers of the chapter shall be as follows: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Reporter, Sentinel and Student Advisor. Other officers may be elected as deemed appropriate by the local advisors and/or governing body. The local Advisor(s) shall be the teacher(s) of Agricultural Science and Technology at Sinton High School, Sinton I.S.D., and Sinton, Texas. Officers shall perform the usual duties of the respective offices.

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 (POA) 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 members shall not vote nor shall they hold any office in the chapter except that of an advisor.

ARTICLE VII – MEETINGS

Section A. Regular chapter meetings shall be held once a month during the school year and other times designated by the Chapter Executive Committee. Special meetings shall be called at any time.

Section B. Standard meeting paraphernalia and equipment shall be used at each meeting. All regular meetings shall open and close with the official ceremony. Parliamentary procedure will be used when transacting all business at each meeting.

Section C. Delegates as specified by the Texas State Constitution shall be elected annually from the active membership to represent the chapter at the State Convention. Other delegates may be named as necessary to have proper representation at various other FFA meetings within the State.

Section D. A majority of the active members listed on the secretary's membership roll shall constitute a quorum. A quorum must be present at any meeting at which business is transacted, or where a vote is taken committing the chapter to any proposal or action.

Section E. Any member participating in a livestock show is required to attend **at least 60%** of the regular meetings held during the school year. Absences must be approved, in writing, by the Ag Science teachers.

ARTICLE VIII – DUES

Section A. Local dues in the Sinton FFA chapter shall be fixed annually by a majority vote of the active members.

Section B. Full local, district (Seis Rios), area (Area X), 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 he/she pays full local, district, area, state and national dues.

ARTICLE IX – 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 needs of the chapter 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 or that of the National FFA Organization.

ARTICLE X – COMMITTEES

Section A. The standing committees of the chapter shall be described in the bylaws. The chapter may, at any meeting, create additional standing committees.

Section B. The chapter president shall appoint all committees and committee chairs. The terms of all committees shall expire on a date described in the chapter's annual strategic action plan. Committee expiration may vary depending on duties but no standing committee term shall extend past the end of the fiscal year. The

president shall have the authority to remove or reassign any committee chairperson or member, 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.

Section D. Standing committees are defined as follows; Leadership and Award, Scholarship, Fundraising, Public Relations, Recreation and Community Service Committees.

ARTICLE XI – PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE

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 *Robert's Rules of Order* shall be the final authority in governing the actions of all chapter meetings.

SINTON FFA

Bylaws

ARTICLE I. – RELATIONSHIP TO CONSTITUTION

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

ARTICLE II. – LOCATION OF OFFICES

The headquarters and principal office of the Sinton Chapter of FFA shall be at 400 N. Pirate Blvd., Sinton, Texas 78387.

ARTICLE III. – FFA OFFICER CANDIDATE ELIGIBILITY

1. Candidates must give a short speech (no more than 3 minutes) in front of all FFA members during an official meeting which explains why they feel qualified for an officer position.
2. Each officer position will be filled by completing all four sections of the election Process with each section worth 25% for a total of 100%:
 - Ballot
 - FFA/Parliamentary Procedure Knowledge Exam
 - Interview
 - Teacher ~~Vote~~ Score/Application

Each officer candidate and their parent must sign an officer agreement pending their election to office. A copy of this agreement will be kept on file with the Ag Science teacher.

President

1. Must be a junior or senior during the year the position is held.
2. Must have had at least one full year Ag Science courses and FFA membership.
3. Must have been an officer for at least one year.
4. Must have participated in at least one leadership or judging contest.

Vice President

1. Must be a junior or a senior during the year the position is held.
2. Must have had at least one full year of Ag Science courses and FFA membership.
3. Must have been an officer for at least one year.
4. Must have participated in at least one leadership or judging contest.

Secretary

1. Must be a sophomore, junior or senior during the year the position is held.
2. Must have had at least one full year of Ag Science courses and FFA membership.

Treasurer

1. Must be a sophomore, junior or senior during the year the position is held.
2. Must have had at least one full year of Ag Science courses and FFA membership.

Reporter

1. Must be a sophomore, junior or senior during the year the position is held.
2. Must have had at least one full year of Ag Science courses and FFA membership.

Sentinel

1. Must be a sophomore, junior or senior during the year the position is held.
2. Must have had at least one full year of Ag Science courses and FFA membership.

Student Advisor

1. Must be a sophomore, junior or senior during the year the position is held.
2. Must have had at least one full year of Ag Science courses and FFA membership.

District/Area Officer

1. Must be a junior or senior during the year the position is held.
2. Must have had at least one full year of Ag Science courses and FFA membership.
3. Must have participated in at least one leadership or judging contest.

State

1. Must be a freshman/sophomore in college the year the position is held.
2. Must have earned the State FFA degree.
3. Must meet all state guidelines.

3. Area X and State do not have regulations at this time on how many candidates can go to Phase 1 there fore-Sinton FFA will follow the guidelines set forth at the Area and State level on the number of candidates to go past chapter for these officer positions

ARTICLE V – RESIGNATION, REMOVAL OF OFFICERS, OFFICER VACANCIES

Section A. The advisor or the executive committee with the advice and consent of the advisor, may, with good cause, remove any officer elected by the chapter. Good cause shall include, but not be limited to, violation of the provisions of the chapter's officer contract, violation of chapter or departmental rules of conduct, violation of the school code of student conduct or violation of state or federal laws.

Section B. Any officer may resign at any time by giving written notice to the advisor and president. Such resignation shall take effect at the time specified in the notice, and,

unless otherwise specified in the notice, the acceptance of such resignation shall not be necessary to make it effective.

Section C. Should the office of president become vacant; the vice president shall assume the title and duties of president. The executive committee may appoint an interim officer to fill any other vacancy until the chapter elects a qualified replacement.

[Add: Election scores of this individual shall be taken from the corresponding election process from that team if available.](#)

Section D.

Demerit System

1. Any officer receiving three demerits during their term will be terminated from office.
2. Any officer terminated from office during their term may not run for office the following year.
3. Each officer and their parent(s) must sign a completed copy of these rules.
4. If for any reason you are terminated from office, you must reimburse the Sinton FFA, Ag department or SISD for any expenses incurred for camp or State Convention.
5. DAEP placement will result in immediate termination of office.
6. First time ISS placement will result in probation of office position, 2nd ISS placement will result in immediate termination of office.

FFA Officer Demerit System

Any officer who violates any of the above mentioned rules will receive a demerit. The accumulation of three demerits for any reason(s) will result in termination from office.

Demerits

Missing or late to a meeting – 1

Office Referral – 1

Breaking any of the above rules – 1

MIP or any other crimes committed will result in immediate removal from office.

Becoming ineligible due to grades, for the 2nd time will result in immediate removal from office.

ARTICLE IV – COMMITTEES

Section A. The standing committees of the chapter shall be in harmony with the National FFA Organization's Quality Standards for Local Chapters. The committee designations and descriptions contained in these bylaws shall be amended to reflect the most current Quality Standards for Local Chapters adopted by the National FFA Organization for the membership year following revision of such standards. Such amendments shall be made without action by the chapter.

Section B. Each active member of this chapter shall be assigned to a committee which is deemed commensurate to the member's interests, talents and skills. The chapter

shall not be obligated to staff all committees, but any of the standing committees may be activated by the chapter president without the action of the chapter.

Section C. Each standing committee shall develop and submit to the executive committee a plan within the committee's scope of responsibility and a corresponding budget within the timelines prescribed by the president. Each committee shall make regular and timely reports to the chapter concerning progress towards its respective goals.

Section D. The standing committees of the chapter and their respective duties are:

1. Student Development-Leadership shall plan and execute strategies which help each member develop technical, human relations and decision-making leadership skills to enhance personal success.
2. Student Development-Healthy Lifestyles shall plan and execute strategies which promote the well-being and self-esteem of each student, mentally and or physically.
3. Student Development-Supervised Agricultural Experience shall plan and execute strategies which promote student involvement and growth through agriculture-related experience and/or entrepreneurship.
4. Student Development-Scholarship shall plan and execute strategies which develop a positive attitude toward lifelong learning experiences.
5. Student Development-Agricultural Career Skills shall plan and execute strategies which develop agricultural occupation and career skills through a progressive learning environment.
6. Chapter Development-Recruitment shall plan and execute strategies to increase agricultural education enrollment and/or FFA membership and encourage greater participation.
7. Chapter Development-Financial shall plan and execute strategies which encourage thrift and good financial management among members through earnings, savings and investments.
8. Chapter Development-Public Relations shall plan and execute strategies to promote a positive image of agricultural education and FFA and to inform students, parents, school officials and the community about chapter and member accomplishments.
9. Chapter Development-Leader Development shall plan and execute strategies to develop teamwork and cooperation skills among chapter officers, committees and members.
10. Chapter Development-Support Group Relations shall plans and execute strategies to develop and maintain positive relations among the FFA, parents, community leaders and industry.
11. Community Development-Economic Development shall plan and execute strategies designed to improve the economic welfare of the community.
12. Community Development-Environmental Awareness shall plan and execute strategies to preserve natural resources and develop more environmentally responsible individuals.

13. Community Development-Human Resources shall plan and execute strategies intended to improve the welfare and well-being of members and citizens of the community.
14. Community Development-Citizenship shall plan and execute strategies to encourage members to become active, involved citizens in their school, community and country.
15. Community Development-Agricultural Awareness shall plan and execute strategies to help the public become better informed about the food system and related agricultural issues.

Section E. Subcommittees of a standing committee may be created by the president, executive committee, and advisor or by the committee with the permission of the president and advisor.

ARTICLE V – TRANSACTIONS OF THE CHAPTER

Section A. The fiscal year of the chapter shall begin on September 1st and end on August 31st.

Section B. The chapter shall adopt policies and procedures consistent with the fiduciary policies, procedures and audit standards of the Sinton Independent School District.

ARTICLE VI – GRIEVANCES AND APPEALS

Grievances and appeals shall be addressed under the auspices of the student grievance policies and procedures of the Sinton Independent School District.