

**James Madison FFA Chapter  
Charter #1303**

# **Constitution and By-laws**

**North East Agriscience Magnet Program  
James Madison High School  
5005 Stahl Road  
San Antonio, Texas 78247**

# Constitution and By-laws

## James Madison FFA Chapter

Revised: August 2006

Reviewed: August 2020

### ARTICLE I - Name, Mission and Strategies

**Section A.** The name of this organization shall be the James Madison 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 James Madison FFA Chapter was chartered October 12, 1976 as a local unit of the Texas Association of FFA, which is chartered by the National FFA Organization. The James Madison FFA Chapter is the organization of, by, and for students enrolled in the North East Agriscience Magnet Program.

**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

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

**Section B.** Junior membership – The purpose of this membership is to encourage and enhance the education of younger students who are interested in the agricultural industry. Junior membership shall consist of students enrolled in public schools that are in the third grade and eight years old and may continue until they become eligible to enroll in the North East Agriscience Magnet Program. To be eligible for junior membership in the James Madison FFA Chapter, the student must be a sibling of an active member of the James Madison FFA and/or the child of an alumni member.

**Section C.** Active membership – To be eligible for active membership in the James Madison FFA Chapter, a student must be enrolled in the North East Agriscience Magnet Program. The regular activities of this chapter shall be carried on by the active membership.

To retain active membership, a student must:

1. While in school, be enrolled in at least one North East Agriscience Magnet Program 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 chapter by attending meetings, striving for degrees of membership, and participating in other organized activities of the chapter.
3. Pay all current chapter, district, area, state and national dues by the date determined by the chapter.
4. Display conduct consistent with the ideals and purposes of the James Madison FFA Chapter.

**Section D.** Alumni membership – Membership may be open to former active members and honorary members, present and former agriculture science instructors, parents of FFA members, and others interested in and supportive of the James Madison FFA Chapter.

**Section E.** Honorary membership – Those interested in Production Agriculture or Agribusiness, school superintendents, principals, members of boards of education, chapter advisors, teachers, school staff members, business people, and others who are helping to advance agricultural education and the FFA and who have rendered outstanding service, may be selected for honorary membership in the James Madison FFA Chapter. Honorary membership in this chapter shall be limited to the Honorary Chapter FFA Degree.

## **ARTICLE IV - Degrees and Privileges of Active Membership**

**Section A.** There shall be four degrees of active membership based on individual achievement. These degrees are: (1) Greenhand FFA Degree, (2) Chapter FFA Degree, (3) State FFA Degree, and (4) American FFA Degree.

**Section B.** Greenhand FFA Degree. Minimum qualifications for selection:

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 knowledge of the FFA Code of Ethics and the proper use of the FFA jacket.
5. Demonstrate 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 C.** Chapter FFA Degree. Minimum qualifications for selection:

1. Must have received the Greenhand FFA Degree.
2. Must have satisfactorily completed 180 hours (or the equivalent) 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 have completed a minimum of 10 hours of community service.
10. Must submit a written application for the Chapter FFA Degree.

**Section D.** State FFA Degree. Minimum qualifications for selection:

1. Must have received the Chapter FFA Degree.
2. Must have been an active FFA member for at least two years (24 months) at the time of receiving the State FFA Degree.
3. Must have satisfactorily completed two years (360 hours) of systematic school instruction in agriculture education at or above the ninth grade level, which includes a supervised agricultural experience program.
4. Must 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. Must 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. Must have a satisfactory scholastic record as certified by the local agriculture science instructor and the principal or superintendent.
7. Must have participated in the planning and completion of the chapter program of activities.

8. Must have participated in at least ten FFA activities above the chapter level in at least three of six different categories: leadership development events, career development events, conventions and meetings, project shows, student awards and leadership and service.
9. Must have completed at least 25 hours of community service in a minimum of two different activities.

**Section E.** American FFA Degree. Minimum qualifications for selection:

1. Must 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. Must have satisfactorily completed the equivalent of at least three years (540 hours) of systematic secondary school in an agriculture education program or have completed the program of agriculture education at the school last attended.
3. Must have graduated from high school at least twelve months prior to the national convention at which the degree is to be granted.
4. Must 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. Must have earned and productively invested at least \$7,500 or earned and invested at least \$1,500 and worked at least 2,250 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 9,000. 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. Must 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 V - Emblem**

**Section A.** The official emblem of the James Madison FFA Chapter shall be the same as that of the National FFA Organization. It shall include five symbols, namely: the plow, representing the labor and tillage of the soil; the owl, representing wisdom; the rising sun, representing progress; a cross-section of an ear of corn, representing common agricultural interests; and an American eagle surmounting the cross-section of an ear of corn, representing the national scope of the organization. The emblem shall also include the letters, "FFA" and the words "Agricultural Education." All members shall be entitled to display the emblem.

**Section B.** Greenhand FFA Degree recipients shall be entitled to wear the official bronze emblem pin; Chapter FFA Degree recipients shall be entitled to wear the official silver emblem pin; State FFA Degree recipients shall be entitled to wear the official gold emblem charm; and American FFA Degree recipients shall be entitled to wear the official gold emblem key.

## **ARTICLE VI - Chapter Officers**

**Section A.** The offices of the James Madison FFA chapter shall be: president, 1<sup>st</sup> vice president and a minimum of four vice presidents. Other officers may be elected as deemed appropriate by the FFA advisor(s) and/or governing body. The instructor(s) of agricultural education shall be the FFA advisor(s). Chapter officers shall be elected annually by the chapter membership.

**Section B.** First year members may not serve as chapter officers.

## **ARTICLE VII - Dues**

**Section A.** Local dues in this chapter shall be fixed annually by the chapter officers and FFA advisor(s).

**Section B.** No member shall be considered as active and in good standing unless he/she pays full chapter, district, area, state and national FFA dues.

**Section C.** The membership of the James Madison FFA Chapter shall be from August 1 to July 31.

## **ARTICLE VIII - 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.

**Section C.** The constitution and by-laws of the James Madison FFA must be reviewed at least every two (2) years.

## **ARTICLE IX - Meetings**

**Section A.** Regular meetings may be held each month during the school year. Summer meetings shall be scheduled on an individual basis.

**Section B.** Official FFA Paraphernalia shall be used at all meetings.

**Section C.** The "Parliamentary Guide for FFA" by Jarrell D. Gray shall be used as the final authority in governing the actions of all chapter meetings.

**Section D.** Special meetings must have the approval of the FFA advisor(s).

**Section E.** Officers may not be absent from FFA meetings without the approval of the FFA advisor(s).

## **ARTICLE X - Officer Duties**

**Section A.** Duties of the chapter officers shall be the same as those listed in the Official FFA Manual and those deemed necessary by the chapter.

## **ARTICLE XI - Fiscal Year**

**Section A.** The fiscal year of the James Madison FFA Chapter shall commence on the first day of August in each year and shall end on the thirty-first day of July of the next calendar year.

## **ARTICLE XII – Member Code of Conduct**

**Section A.** The opportunity to participate in the James Madison FFA is a privilege extended to NEISD students. Participation in the James Madison FFA places a student in a position of recognition and often bestows the position of role model upon the member. Any student who elects to accept the privilege of participating in the James Madison FFA must recognize that he/she is a representative of the school and district, and will be held to a higher standard of conduct than that applied to the general student body. This applies to school related and non-school related activities. The member is subject to state law, school district policies, school rules and regulations, the James Madison FFA Constitution and By-laws, and University Interscholastic League (UIL) rules.

**Section B.** Members shall adhere to the NEISD Student Code of Conduct (refer to the “Student / Parent Handbook for High Schools”).

## **ARTICLE XIII – Disciplinary Action**

**Section A.** Any member that is found in violation of the NEISD Student Code of Conduct (refer to the “Student / Parent Handbook for High Schools”) is subject to disciplinary action(s). The Agriscience Magnet Program (AMP) Director and/or the campus administration shall initiate the disciplinary action(s) for the James Madison FFA. Disciplinary action will be based upon the age of the student, the frequency of offense(s), and a careful review of the background and seriousness of the offense(s). Referrals for placement in alternative education settings will result in an immediate dismissal from the James Madison FFA.

**Section B.** The Agriscience Magnet Program (AMP) Director and/or the campus administration will determine the seriousness of the offense(s) and assign disciplinary action that can range from a written warning, probation for a set period of time, or dismissal from the James Madison FFA. The parent or guardian will receive notification of the disciplinary action that was administered.

**Section C.** The ability to reapply for membership in the James Madison FFA will be determined on an individual basis by the Agriscience Magnet Program (AMP) Director.