Guadalupe Valley District Constitution

Article I - Name and Purpose

Section A. The name of this organization shall be the "Guadalupe Valley District FFA. Members are hereinafter referred to as FFA members. FFA may be used to designate the district, its activities, or members thereof.

Section B. The purpose for which this district is formed are as follows:
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.
11. Encourages excellence in scholarship.

Article II - Organization

Section A. The Guadalupe Valley District FFA is a charted local unit of the Texas FFA Association which is charted by the National FFA Organization.

Section B. This district accepts in full the provisions in the National and State Constitution and By-Laws.

Article III - Membership

Section A. Membership in this district shall be of four kinds: (1) active; (2) alumni; (3) collegiate; (4) honorary, as defined in the National FFA Constitution.

Section B. The regular work of this district shall be carried on by the active membership.

Section C. Honorary membership for this district shall be limited to the Honorary State FFA Degree.

Section D. Active members in good standing may vote on all business brought before the district. An active member shall be considered in good standing when:
1. He attends local meetings with reasonable regularity.
2. He shows an interest in, and takes part in the affairs of the district.
3. He pays his dues regularly.
4. When he fulfills the requirements set forth in the National FFA Constitution.

**Section E.** 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 district.

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

**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 the local FFA chapter program of activities.
6. Submit written application for the degree.

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

1. Be regularly enrolled in an Agricultural Education course and have satisfactory and acceptable plans for a program of supervised farming, and/or agricultural occupational experiences.
2. Learn and explain the FFA creed, motto, and salute.
3. Describe the FFA emblems, colors, and symbols.
4. Explain the proper use of the FFA jacket.
5. Have satisfactory knowledge of the history of the organization.
6. Know the duties and responsibilities of the FFA members.
7. Personally own or have access to the Official FFA Manual.
8. Submit written application for the degree for chapter records.
Section D. Chapter FFA Degree: Minimum qualifications for election:
1. Must have the Degree of Greenhand and have a record of satisfactory participation in the activities of the local chapter.
2. Must have satisfactorily completed at least 180 hours of instruction in Ag. Science or above 9th grade level, have in operation an improved supervised farming, and/or other agricultural occupational experiences program, and be regularly enrolled in an Ag. Science class.
3. Be familiar with the purposes and programs of activities of the State Association and the National Organization.
4. Be familiar with the purposes and programs of activities of the local chapter.
5. Be familiar with parliamentary procedure (Demonstrate five abilities).
6. Be able to lead a group discussion for 15 minutes.
7. Have earned at least $150.00 by his/her own efforts from his/her supervised agricultural experience program in agricultural production and/or agribusiness or worked 45 hours in the case of directed laboratory experience on agriculture and/or agribusiness.
8. Demonstrate progress toward achieving and agricultural Proficiency Award on the local level.
9. Have a satisfactory scholastic record in an agricultural course.
10. Submit application for the degree for chapter records.
11. Meet other requirements as established by the State Association and National Organization.

Section E. State FFA Degree. Minimum qualifications for election:
1. Will be those set forth in the constitution of the State Association and the National Organization.


Article VI - Officers

Section A. The officers of the district shall be as follows: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Reporter, and Sentinel. The Advisor of the District President will be the acting District Advisor. Officers shall perform the usual duties of their office.
Section B. Officers shall be elected annually by the month of April.
1. The election of officers will be coordinated by two advisors.
2. Exam questions will be sent to each chapter 3 weeks prior to the election.
3. An exam will be given the day of the election to include 25 questions on parliamentary procedure and 25 questions on the FFA manual.
4. Students must score 70% to run.
5. All eligible candidates will draw for order of speech presentation.
6. Following each campaign speech, each candidate will be asked a thought question.
7. No additional campaign speeches will be made.
8. All candidates will run for President. Each delegate will vote for six candidates by number.
9. The candidates that receive the top six vote counts will be elected in the following order:
   1st - President
   2nd - Vice-President
   3rd – Secretary
   4th - Treasurer
   5th - Reporter
   6th - Sentinel
10. Two alternates will be ranked in case an officer cannot fulfill their duties.
11. Officers must sign and commit to attending to their duties as a district officer including participation at the following activities.
   A. Area Convention
   B. Area Leadership Camp
   C. District Leadership Camp
   D. District Meetings
   E. District Banquet
12. **If an officers does** not perform their duties, they can be removed from office under consideration by the Ag. Science Teachers.
13. **An other** FFA activity that conflicts with officer duties will be excused.

Section C. The district officers shall constitute the District Executive Committee. The Executive committee shall have full power to act as necessary for the district in accordance with actions taken at district meetings and various regulations or By-Laws adopted from time to time.

Section D. Honorary members shall not vote nor shall they hold an office in the district except that of the advisor.

Section E. District officers must have attained the Chapter FFA Degree during the term of their office. Each chapter is limited to two district officers.
Article VII - Meetings

Section A. Standard meeting paraphernalia shall be used at each meeting. All regular meetings shall open with the regular opening ceremonies and close with the regular closing ceremonies. Parliamentary procedure shall be used to transact all business at each meeting.

Section B. Delegates to the district shall be chosen according to the number of chapter members as follows:

1 - 50 members = 1 delegate
51 - 100 members = 2 delegates
101 - 150 members = 3 delegates
151 - 200 members = 4 delegates

These delegates will represent each chapter in the district, area, and state meetings.

Section C. A majority of the delegates from the chapters listed in the secretary's roll of membership shall constitute a majority and a majority must be present at any regular meeting or called a meeting at which business is transacted or a vote taken committing the chapter to any proposal or action.

Section D. Each year the meeting time, place, and date will be voted on by the Agriculture Science teachers.

Article VIII - Dues

Section A. Local dues in the District shall be fixed annually by the Agriculture Science teachers at any regular meeting.

Section B. Dues paid by all members will include local, district, area, state and national dues.

Section C. No member shall be considered as active and good standing unless he or she has paid their dues in full.

Article IX - Amendments

Section A. This constitution may be amended or changed at any regular district meeting provided that it is not in conflict with the State Association or with the National Organization of FFA.

Section B. By-Laws and standing rules may be adopted to fit the needs of the district at any regular district meeting by a two-thirds vote of the district members present providing such by-laws and standing rules conflict in no way with the constitution and by-laws of either the State Association or National Organization.
By-Laws

Article I - Meetings

Section A. Members not meeting the following obligations will be put on probation and they are subject to being expelled from the organization.

Article II - District Officers

Section A. Candidates for office must meet the following qualifications to be able to run for office:

1. Hold the Chapter FFA Degree of above or be eligible for the Chapter FFA Degree of the year that he or she is to take office.
2. Candidates and voting delegates must be in official dress at the officer election meeting, if not they will not be allowed to run for office or vote.

Section B. All Officers must meet the following qualifications while in office:

1. Newly elected officers must know their part by the first meeting they conduct. An officer will not receive his or her jacket until they say their part.
2. An officer cannot miss any officer, district, or area meetings, if so they may be removed from their office.
3. If an officer is suspended from school while in office, he or she may be asked to give up their office by the Executive Committee.