

WALNUT GROVE FFA CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

Article I. Name

The name of the organization shall be the Walnut Grove FFA. However, the letters FFA and / or Future Farmers of America may be officially used to designate the organization, its units or members.

Article II. Aims and Activities of the Organization

The objects and purposes of the organization are set forth in Section 3 of the organization's charter, Public Law 81-740. The organization shall cooperate with National and State governing agencies and officials for vocational education in accomplishing these objects and purposes and the following aims and activities, which the governing body has determined, pursuant to the organization's Charter, to be appropriate aims and activities within the framework of objects and purposes established by the organization's Charter:

1. To be an integral part of the organized instructional programs in agriculture education which prepares students for a wide range of careers in agriculture, agribusiness and other agriculture-related occupations.
2. To strengthen the confidence of students in themselves and their work by developing desirable work habits and the effective usage of their time by learning to assume responsibilities; and by developing personal competencies in communications, human relations, and social abilities leading to intelligent choice of a career and successful employment or entrepreneurship in agriculture industry.
3. To provide agriculture-related programs and activities which will develop pride, responsibility, leadership, character, scholarship, citizenship, patriotism, and thrift among its members for the improvement of the economic, environmental recreational, and human resources of the community.
4. To encourage and recognize individual achievement in supervised agricultural experience programs, scholarship, leadership, and other individual and group activities by providing awards to deserving members and chapters.

Article III. Organization

Section A. The Walnut Grove FFA is a high school organization where recognized systematic instruction in vocational education for agricultural occupations is offered under the provisions of the National Vocational Education Acts.

Section B. To become affiliated with the Missouri FFA Association, the Walnut Grove FFA must elect officers, set up an annual program of activities, and adopt a constitution not in conflict with the state or national constitutions.

Article IV. Requirements for good standing in the State and National Associations

Section A. The Walnut Grove FFA shall be considered in good standing with the State and National Associations when the following general conditions are met:

1. All current State and National dues have been paid to be specified by the State Associations.
2. All reports have been submitted as required by the State Association.
3. No provisions of chapter constitution are in conflict with the State and National Constitutions, Bylaws, or the Federal Charter. Activities are in harmony with the ideals and purposes of the organization. The State Association has the power to suspend local chapter charters.

Section B. An active member shall be considered in good standing when:

1. The member attends local chapter meetings while enrolled in the school where the local chapter is established.
2. The member shows an interest in, and takes part in, the affairs of the chapter.
3. The member pays dues regularly and exhibits conduct in a manner becoming a member of the organization.

Article V. Membership

Section A. Active Membership. Any students who is regularly enrolled in secondary (grade 9-12) agricultural education program is entitled to become an active member of the Walnut Grove FFA.

To retain membership during high school the member must be enrolled in at least one vocational education course during the school year. Members may retain their active membership until November 30 following the 4th National Convention after graduation from high school.

Section B. Alumni Membership. Membership shall be opened to former active FFA, collegiate and honorary members, present and former professional agricultural educators, parents of FFA members, and others interested in and supportive of the FFA.

Section C. Honorary Membership. Farmers, school superintendents, principals, members of the boards of education, chapter advisors, teachers, staff members in agricultural education, businessmen, and others who are helping to advance agriculture education and the FFA, and who have rendered outstanding service, may be elected to honorary chapter membership by a majority vote of the members present at any regular meeting.

Article VI. Active membership, degrees and privileges

Section A. There shall be only four degrees of active membership based upon achievement. These degrees are:

1. Greenhand Degree
2. Chapter FFA Degree
3. State FFA Degree
4. American FFA Degree

The National FFA Organization shall set the standards for these degrees. Minimum qualifications for these degrees and are listed in the **Official FFA Manual**. **All members will receive a personal copy of the Official FFA Manual their first year of membership.**

Article VII. Emblem

Section A. The emblem of the FFA shall be made up of five symbols, namely:

1. The plow, representing labor and tillage of the soil.
2. The owl, representing wisdom.
3. The rising sun, representing progress.
4. A cross section of an ear of corn, representing common agricultural interests.
5. An American eagle surmounting the cross-section of the ear of corn indicating the national scope of the organization. The emblem shall also carry the three letters, FFA and the words Agricultural Education.

Section B. The Walnut Grove FFA shall use the emblem exactly as described above. All members are entitled to wear the emblem.

Article VIII. Amendments

Section A. Proposed amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws of the Walnut Grove FFA must be submitted in writing by members two weeks prior to the next regular chapter meeting. The Chapter Executive Committee shall study the proposed amendment and submit it, with recommendations, to the chapter in attendance at the meeting. A vote of two-thirds of the quorum is necessary to adopt a proposed amendment. A quorum of the membership is considered to be the total of the members who attend the nightly meetings.

BY-LAWS

Article I. Dues

Section A. Annual membership dues shall be fixed by the Chapter Executive Committee and approved by a majority vote of the membership of the chapter.

Article II. Duties of Chapter Officers

Section A. President. It shall be the duty of the President to preside over meetings according to accepted rules of parliamentary procedure, appoint committees, coordinate chapter activities and represent the chapter in public relations and official functions.

Section B. 1st Vice-President. The 1st Vice-President shall assume the duties of the President if or when necessary, develop the Program of Activities, coordinate the activities of the chapter. The Vice-President will also work closely with the President and advisor to assess progress toward meeting chapter goals.

Section C. 2nd Vice-President. If chosen the 2nd Vice-President will assume half of the Vice-Presidents duties.

Section D. The following constitutional chapter officers shall assume the duties of that office as described in the section Chapter Officers outlined in the **Official FFA Manual**.

1. Secretary
2. Treasurer
3. Reporter
4. Sentinel
5. Advisor

Section E. In the event that a President is a junior and does not wish to run for re-election for the senior year, this member may be placed on the executive committee in an ex-officio position as Past President.

Article III. Committees

Section A. Standing Committees. Committees may be appointed by the Chapter Executive Committee. A chairman, members, and local advisor shall be named for each committee. Time to meet and to study the problems shall be provided for each committee. An oral report shall be made by each committee to the chapter members, and a copy of each report shall be placed with the secretary's records. Committees may be appointed upon the recommendation of the Chapter Executive Committee or by a majority vote of assembled members.

Article IV. Procedures for electing chapter officers

Section A. The following procedures shall be met in order to interview (Article IV, Section B) for a chapter office:

1. Hold the Chapter FFA Degree
2. Complete the Chapter Officer Application with verification of a 2.0 GPA from the Counselor.

Section B. Interview. Officer candidate interviews will be held for individuals who have met the requirements in Article IV, Section A.

1. The interviewing committee shall be selected by the Advisor.
2. The interview committee will select a slate of officers from the officer candidates who present themselves before the committee.
3. The slate of officers must be approved by the chapter before the banquet.

Article V. Procedure for Determining Standing of Local Members

Section A. **Members in Good Standing**

An active member shall be considered to be in good standing when the the following conditions are met:

1. The member attends local chapter meetings with reasonable regularity.
2. The member shows interest in, and takes part in, the affairs of the chapter.
3. The member pays dues by the specified time each year and exhibits conduct in a manner becoming to a member of the organization as outlined in the *Code of Ethics* and *Proper Use of the FFA Jacket* of the Official FFA Manual.
4. The member abides by the rules as outlined in the Walnut Grove High School Handbook.

Section B. Student Conduct

1. Infractions involving members will be handled in the following manner:
 - a. Members receiving 2 ISS assignments and/or 1 OSS assignment in the current school year will not be allowed to attend the next scheduled overnight chapter trip or participate on judging teams.
 - b. Infractions involving the use of alcohol, tobacco, and severe inappropriate behavior on an FFA trip will result in the following for one fiscal year:
 1. Loss of all FFA trip privileges.
 2. Forfeiture of any current FFA office held.
 3. Loss of voting privileges at chapter meetings.
 4. Loss of Committee membership.
 5. Loss of CDE, FFA and related contest participation.
 6. Loss of right to be nominated for activities. (Barnwarming Queen candidate, etc.)

Article VI – FFA Activities

Section A: FFA Trip Rotation

Trips will be determined on a year by year basis pending approval by the members, administration and FFA advisor. Trips will generally follow the following rotation:

1. Odd Years:
 - a. State FFA Convention
 - b. Washington Leadership Conference
 - c. National FFA Convention
2. Even Years:
 - a. State FFA Convention
 - b. FFA Leadership Camp
 - c. Summer Camping Trip (e.g. Colorado Trip)

Section B: State FFA Convention

Provided there is a trip to the State FFA Convention, the following rules will serve as a guide for choosing those who attend:

1. The number of students to be taken on the State FFA Convention trip and who attends will ultimately be chosen by the advisor.
2. Students who qualify for competition or are receiving awards or recognition will automatically be selected to attend provided they raise adequate funds. (ex- proficiency award, CDE or FFA Contest)
3. Chapter members typically will be chosen based on the “ABC’s” of State Convention:
 - a. A – Application.
Students must fill out an application to attend State

Convention.

- b. B- Barnwarming and Banquet.
Students must participate in barnwarming which is held each fall before state FFA Convention.
Non-greenhand students, must also participate in Banquet, which is held in the spring before State Convention.
- c. C- Creed or Competition and Community Service.
Incoming greenhands must say the FFA creed with a score of at least 80% and participate in an agriculture competition above local level..
Non-greenhands will need to participate in an agriculture competition above the local level.
All students must participate in a community service project during the school year before convention.
- d. D – Dress Officially
Students must have access to official dress to wear to functions
- e. E – Eligible
Students must be academically eligible, as outlined by the Walnut Grove High School Student Handbook and chapter FFA constitution to participate above the local level.
- f. F – Fairs and Fundraisers and Fall Speaking
Non greenhand Students must show an item as part of their SAE at a local or state fair.
Students must raise appropriate funds or pay for activities out of pocket.
Greenhands may participate in the fall public speaking competition as a substitute for the FFA Creed.
- g. G – Greenhand Initiation
Students must be initiated into the organization, as approved by the advisor.
- h. H- Hold Office
Holding an Office is not required, but officers will be allowed to substitute being an officer for one requirement of the “ABC’s”

Section C: National FFA convention

Provided there is a trip to the National FFA Convention, the following Rules will serve as a guide for choosing those who attends:

1. The number of students to be taken on the National FFA Convention trip and who attends will ultimately be chosen by the advisor.
2. Students who qualify for national competition or are receiving national recognition will automatically be selected to attend provided they raise adequate funds. (ex-agriscience fair, proficiency award, CDE or FFA Contest)
3. Chapter members typically will be chosen based on the “ABC’s” of National Convention:

A. Application

Students must fill out an application to attend National Convention.

B. Barnwarming and Banquet

Students must participate in three total chapter barnwarmings and/or banquets leading up to national FFA Convention.

Greenhands must participate in only the Odd year barnwarming leading up to convention.

C. Creed / Competition and Community Service

Incoming greenhands must say the FFA creed with a score of at least 80%.

Non-greenhands will need to participate in a minimum of two agriculture competitions above the local level leading up to the convention.

Non-greenhands must participate in all community service projects offered by the chapter leading up to Convention or substitute their own community service performed outside of the chapter.

D. Dress Official

Students must have access to official dress to wear to functions

E. Eligible

Students must be academically eligible, as outlined by the Walnut Grove High School Student Handbook and the chapter FFA constitution, to participate above the local level.

F. Fair / Fall Speaking and Fundraisers

All non-greenhand students must show at least one item as part of their SAE at a local or state fair.

All greenhand students must commit to participating in the fall public speaking competition to be held after convention. Failure to do so may result in loss of overnight trip privileges for one year.

Students must raise appropriate funds or pay for activities out of pocket.

G. Greenhand Initiation

Students must be initiated into the organization, as approved by the advisor.

H. Hold Office

Holding an Office is not required, but officers will be allowed to substitute being an officer for one requirement of the “ABC’s”

Section D -Barnwarming Queen/King

The following rules will regulate the annual barnwarming queen selection:

1. Queen candidates will be elected by their classmates.
2. Barnwarming Queens will typically be chosen by combination of the following things:
 - a. Change cans – money collected from donations
 - b. Ticket Sales – all tickets sold by a class, will count toward that classes candidate.
 - c. Barnwarming Skits – members of the queen candidates class will be judged on a skit to be performed and judged at barnwarming
 - d. Cake decorating contest – queen candidates will decorate a cake based on the barnwarming theme. The cakes will be judged and sold during the auction.
 - e. Tug of war- 12 people on each team of the queen’s choice including the king and queen.
3. Barnwarming King Candidates will be chosen by the Queen candidates as helpers at Barnwarming.
4. Former Queens cannot run again, but former candidates may.

Section E- Summer Trips, Conferences and Camps

Provided a summer trip is taken, the following rules will be used to determine who attends:

1. Students must be eligible 4th Quarter to Attend a trip in the summer.
2. If a registration fee is required, typically a non-refundable deposit of the money will be paid prior to registration and the remaining balance be paid prior to leaving on the trip.

Section F- Student Activities Money

Fundraising money in student accounts may be passed to younger siblings.

If money is not passed to younger siblings, the first \$200 will become property of the FFA chapter and will be used for funding other members in the form of a scholarship

Scholarships for underclassmen may be awarded for trips, official dress or any other item the advisor deems appropriate.

Students applying will typically be required to interview in front of a committee. The committee may be made up of teachers, former students, community leaders, senior officers, etc.

Scholarships will typically be awarded for up to half of the cost of an activity or item depending upon the amount and decision of the interviewing committee.

Students with over \$200 in their activity account will be allowed to receive the balance over \$200 of their money in the form of a scholarship provided they have attended three of the following:

1. State FFA Convention
2. FFA Camp
3. National FFA Convention
4. FFA Summer Trip
5. WLC