

MILLER GROVE FFA CHAPTER CONSTITUTION

Revised and Adopted September 3, 2019



ARTICLE I - Name, Mission and Strategies

Section A. The name of this organization shall be the *Miller Grove* 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 *Miller Grove* Chapter of FFA is a chartered local unit of the *Texas* Association of FFA 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 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) Active; (2) Alumni, (3) Honorary, and (4) Junior, as defined by the National and Texas FFA Constitutions and by Texas FFA Association membership policies.

Section B. The regular activities of this chapter shall be carried on by the active membership.

Section C. To be eligible for active membership in this chapter, a student must meet the membership eligibility requirements of the National FFA Association and Texas FFA Association. Active members in good standing may vote on all business brought before the chapter. An active member shall be considered in good standing when:

1. While in school, be enrolled in at least one agricultural education 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 organization by attending meetings, striving for degrees of membership, and participating in other organized activities of the chapter.
3. Pays all current state and national dues by the date determined by the chapter.
4. Display conduct consistent with the ideals and purposes of the National FFA Organization.
5. Meets all other local standards and requirements described in this chapter's bylaws and policies.

Section D. 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 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.

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

Section F. The membership year for this chapter shall begin on September 1 and end on August 31 of each year.

Section G. Honorary membership in this chapter shall be limited to the Honorary Chapter FFA Degree.

Honorary Membership – Farmers, school superintendents, principals, school board trustees, advisory committee members, chapter advisors, teachers, staff members in agriculture, food and natural resource education, business peoples, support group members and others who are helping to advance agricultural education and FFA and who have rendered outstanding service may be elected to honorary membership by a majority vote of the members present at any regular or special meeting. Honorary membership in this chapter shall be limited to the Honorary Chapter FFA Degree. Honorary Chapter FFA Degree recipients shall be entitled to wear the official silver or gold emblem pin. Procedures for nominating and electing honorary members shall be described in this chapter's bylaws or rules.

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 - 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. All Greenhands are entitled to wear the regulation bronze emblem pin. All members holding the Chapter FFA Degree are entitled to wear the regulation silver emblem pin. All members holding the State FFA Degree are entitled to wear the regulation gold emblem charm. All members holding the American FFA Degree are entitled to wear the regulation gold emblem key.

Section B. Greenhand FFA Degree. Minimum qualifications for election: (Refer to Texas FFA Constitution.)

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 election: (Refer to Texas FFA Constitution.)

1. Must have received the Greenhand FFA Degree.
2. Must have satisfactorily completed the equivalent of at least two semesters 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 an 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 record 10 or more hours of community service.
9. Must have a satisfactory scholastic record.
10. Must submit a written application for the Chapter FFA Degree.

Section D. State FFA Degree. Qualifications for the State FFA Degree are those set forth in the constitution of the *Texas* State FFA Association and National FFA Organization.

1. Have received the Chapter FFA Degree.
2. Have been an active FFA member 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 Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources at or above the ninth grade level, which includes a supervised agricultural experience program.
4. Have earned and productively invested at least \$1,000 or worked at least 300 hours in excess of scheduled class time, or a combination thereof in a supervised agricultural experience program. The combination of hours, multiplied by a factor of 3.33 and dollars must exceed or equal the number 1000.
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 Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources instructor and the principal or superintendent.
7. Have participated in the planning and completion of the chapter program of activities.
8. As of April 1, have completed ten 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 as described in policies adopted by the Board of Directors.
9. As of April 1 of the year the member is to receive the degree, have participated in at least 25 hours of community service within at least two different community service activities. These hours are in addition to and cannot be duplicated as paid or unpaid SAE hours.

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 Executive Director shall provide for a review of the records and submit a recommendation to the State FFA Board of Directors, which shall nominate at the State FFA convention the candidates who have been found worthy 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. Qualifications for the American FFA Degree are those set forth in the constitution of the National FFA Organization.

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 Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources program or have completed the program of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources 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. A student after entering agricultural education must have: a. earned at least \$10,000 and productively invested at least \$7,500; or b. earned and productively invested \$2,000 and worked 2,250 hours in excess of scheduled class time. Any combination of hours, times a factor of 3.56, plus actual dollars earned and productively invested must be equal to or greater than the number 10,000. Hours used for the purpose of producing earning reported as productively invested income shall not be duplicated as hours of credit to meet the minimum requirements for 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.
7. Have participated in at least 50 hours of community service, within at least 3 different community service activities. These hours are in addition to and cannot be duplicated as paid or unpaid SAE hours.
8. Submit an application and supporting documentation pursuant to the deadlines and requirements described in Texas FFA policies and procedures.

ARTICLE VI – Officers and Executive Committee

Section A. The offices of an FFA chapter shall be: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Reporter and Sentinel. Other officers may be elected as deemed appropriate by the chapter. The teacher(s) of agriculture, food and natural resources shall be the FFA advisor(s). Chapter officers shall be elected annually. Procedures for electing officers and specific duties of each office are described in the bylaws of this chapter and the Officer Handbook and Contract.

Section B: Pursuant to the provisions of the national and state constitutions, all chapter officers shall have attained the chapter FFA degree. Only members in grades 9-12 may hold office. The president and vice president must be a junior or senior in class standing.

Section C. Officers shall serve from the end of the chapter meeting at which they are installed to the end of the next succeeding chapter meeting at which officers are installed unless removed from their office by violations to the Miller Grove FFA Officer Handbook and Contract.

Section D. The elected officers of the chapter shall constitute the executive committee which shall convene to plan the activities of the chapter. All policy decisions of the executive committee must be approved by the chapter.

Section E. Pursuant to the applicable constitutional, bylaw and policy provisions of the district, area and state associations and of the National FFA Organization, this chapter may nominate candidates for offices above the chapter level in a manner consistent with the provisions of its bylaws and policies. Candidates for district and area office shall have attained the chapter degree at the time of the district or area election. Candidates for state office shall hold the state degree at the time of the state election. Candidates for national office shall hold the American Degree at the time of their election to office.

ARTICLE VII - 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. 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.

ARTICLE VIII – Member Contest Dues

Section A. Member contest dues are set annually by the FFA advisor(s). Member contest dues are for any member who wishes to participate in contests, livestock shows at all levels and receive awards at the end of the year banquet.

Section B. No member shall be considered as active and in good standing unless he/she pays member contest dues.

ARTICLE IX – Meetings

Section A. Meeting dates and times shall be fixed by the chapter's executive committee with the advice and consent of the chapter advisor. Special meetings may be called by the president, by a majority vote of the executive committee or by the chapter advisor(s). Meeting agendas shall be posted in a manner consistent with operating rules or procedures adopted by the chapter.

Section B. A simple majority of 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 a vote taken committing the chapter to any proposal or action.

Section C. There will be a yearly awards banquet held at the end of each school year. Awards given at the annual chapter awards banquet are given only to students in attendance. Exceptions will be granted by the executive committee for family emergencies and other school activities that are at a higher competition/qualifying level (example: a state competition).

ARTICLE X - 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. Members shall be notified by mail, electronic mail or classroom announcement at least 30 days prior to a meeting at which any constitutional amendment is to be considered.

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 conflict in no way with the constitution, bylaws or policies of the Texas FFA Association, National FFA Organization or the Miller Grove Independent School District. Members shall be notified by mail, electronic mail or classroom announcement at least 30 days prior to a meeting at which any constitutional amendment is to be considered.

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 Roberts Rules of Order shall be the final authority in governing the actions of all chapter meetings.

MILLER GROVE FFA CHAPTER BYLAWS

Revised and Adopted September 3, 2019



ARTICLE I. – Relationship to Constitution

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

ARTICLE II. – Location of Offices

The headquarters and principal office of the Miller Grove Chapter of FFA shall be at 7819 FM 275 South, Cumby, TX 75433.

ARTICLE III – Procedures for Electing Officers

Section A. The chapter shall adopt rules related to the election of officers which shall include, but not be limited to, designation of elections committee, filing deadlines, application forms, testing procedures and election date.

Section B. Qualified members shall declare intent to be considered for chapter office by filing the required forms by the prescribed filing deadline pursuant to the rules adopted by the chapter.

Section C. Officers shall be selected by a combination of application score, exam score, teacher recommendation forms and personal interview score.

Section D. All written materials related to a chapter election shall be deposited and retained in a secure location for no less than 30 days following the announcement of election results.

Section E. Appeals or protests related to a chapter election shall be filed pursuant to the grievances procedures of the Miller Grove Independent School District.

ARTICLE IV – Duties of Officers

Section A. It shall be the duty of all officers to fulfill the responsibilities described in the officer contract adopted by the chapter and agreed to by each officer at the time of declaring candidacy for chapter office.

Section B. Duties of chapter officers shall be:

The president shall preside at all the chapter's meetings, shall sign all official documents or authorize execution of said documents, appoint student committees and serve as an ex-officio member of all student committees, coordinate all chapter operations, represent the chapter in

official functions and perform other such duties as usually pertain to the office of the president.

The vice president shall perform the duties of the president in the event of the disability, death, resignation, removal or other inability of the president to perform such duties, develop the chapter's program of activities, coordinate the operation of all student committees, serve as an ex-officio member of all student committees and perform such other duties and further duties as may be imposed upon him or her by the chapter.

The secretary shall make and keep correct records or minutes of proceedings of the chapter and executive committee, prepare and post meeting agendas, file reports, maintain member activity records, issue membership cards, update policy documents as directed and perform such other duties and further duties as may be imposed upon him or her by the chapter.

The treasurer shall have responsibility for accounting of all funds and property of the chapter. The treasurer shall provide direction and oversight to any and all who handle the monies of the chapter, assuring that the financial policies of the chapter and Miller Grove Independent School District are followed completely, shall present a proposed budget at a regularly scheduled or called special chapter meeting, present monthly financial reports at chapter meetings, chair the budget and finance committee and perform such other duties and further duties as may be imposed upon him or her by the chapter.

The reporter shall chair the chapter public relations committee and develop public relations strategies to accurately define the public image of the agricultural education program and FFA chapter, develop or cause to be developed press releases concerning chapter activities, maintain or cause to be maintained a chapter website, develop working relationships with all local and school district media, ensure a complete photographic record of all chapter activities and perform such other duties and further duties as may be imposed upon him or her by the chapter.

The sentinel shall have responsibility for all meeting related equipment and shall maintain an inventory of all such equipment, ensure that all meeting and social venues are ready to receive members and guests prior to each function, take charge of candidates for degree and award ceremonies, assist the president in maintaining order, ensure a welcoming environment for guests and perform such other duties and further duties as may be imposed upon him or her by the chapter.

The historian shall have responsibility for documenting events to create a complete and accurate chapter history and compile such documentation such as, but not limited to newspaper and magazine articles, photographs, video footage, significant web-based content, ceremony and banquet programs and other memorabilia which may be maintained to provide future generations a glimpse into the chapter's history. The historian shall also maintain records of historically significant anniversaries, past degree and award recipients, officers and alumni of distinction and periodically create displays, which foster pride among the members and perform such other duties and further duties as may be imposed upon him or her by the chapter.

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 handbook and 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, president or secretary. 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.

ARTICLE VI – 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:

Growing Leaders-Leadership shall plan and execute activities which help the individual develop technical, human relations and decision-making skills to grow leaders.

Growing Leaders-Healthy Lifestyles shall plan and execute strategies which promote the well-being of students mentally or physically, in achieving the positive evolution of the whole person.

Growing Leaders- Scholarship shall plan and execute strategies which develop a positive attitude toward lifelong learning experiences.

Growing Leaders-Personal Growth shall plan and execute strategies which improve the identity and self-awareness of members, striving to enhance the quality of life and contribute to members' life goals and development.

Growing Leaders- Career Success shall plan and execute strategies which promote student involvement and growth through agriculture-related experiences and/or entrepreneurship and promote career readiness.

Building Communities-Environmental shall plan and execute strategies to preserve natural resources and develop more environmentally responsible individuals.

Building Communities –Human Resources shall plan and execute strategies which improve the welfare and well-being of members and citizens of the community.

Building Communities-Citizenship shall plan and execute strategies to encourage members to become active, involved citizens of their school, community and country.

Building Communities –Stakeholder Engagement shall plan and execute strategies to develop teamwork and cooperation between the local chapter and stakeholders.

Building Communities –Economic Development shall plan and execute strategies to improve the economic welfare of the community.

Strengthening Agriculture-Support Group shall plan and execute strategies to develop and maintain positive relations among FFA, parents and community leaders interested in supporting agricultural education.

Strengthening Agriculture –Chapter Recruitment shall plan and execute strategies to increase agricultural education enrollment and/or FFA membership and encourage greater participation.

Strengthening Agriculture -Safety shall plan and execute strategies intended to enhance safety in the community.

Strengthening Agriculture –Agricultural Advocacy shall plan and execute strategies to articulate and promote agricultural programs, practices, policies and/or education to elicit action.

Strengthening Agriculture -Agricultural Literacy shall plan and execute strategies to help consumers become better informed about the production, distribution and daily impact of food, fiber and fuel.

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

ARTICLE VII - TRANSACTIONS OF THE CHAPTER

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

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

ARTICLE VIII - Fundraising

Section A. To be considered a “Member in Good Standing”, students should participate in fundraisers held by Miller Grove FFA. Fundraisers include the fall meat and fruit sale, The Miller Grove Livestock Show (January), and Stew & Auction (April). To be a member in good standing and participate in contests, students must work at least 2 hours at the Miller Grove Livestock Show.

ARTICLE IX - COMPETITION TEAMS

Section A. Leadership Development Teams and Speaking Development Events shall post sign-up sheets for students who wish to try out for teams. Practice material will be provided and a try-out date posted. Team member numbers will be set by Texas FFA rules. Students and alternates who make the teams will travel to invitational, district, area, and state competitions as they qualify.

Section B. Career Development Teams shall post sign-up sheets for students wishing to try-out for teams. Practice materials will be provided, and team practices scheduled which students should be present for. Team members will be selected by averaging scores from invitational contests. There is not a maximum number of students that can travel to invitational contests. The top four student averages will make the teams that travel to the area and state competitions in which they qualify.

Section C. Students attending invitational contests are required to sign up by the deadline prior to the contest. If students sign up to attend and do not participate by failing to show up, unsatisfactory grades or deciding not to participate, they are required to reimburse Miller Grove FFA for their entry fee.

ARTICLE X – Grievances and Appeals

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