

# Manheim FFA Chapter Constitution

## ARTICLE I - Name, Mission and Strategies

**Section A.** The name of this organization shall be the Manheim 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 Manheim Chapter of FFA is a chartered local unit of the Pennsylvania 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 Pennsylvania Association of FFA as well as those of the National FFA Organization.

## ARTICLE III - Membership

**Section A.** Membership in this chapter shall be of three kinds: (1) Active; (2) Alumni; and (3) Honorary, as defined by the National FFA Constitution.

**Section B.** The regular activities 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 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. Pay all current local, county, 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, Pennsylvania Association of the FFA, and Manheim Central School District.

**Section E.** Names of applicants for membership shall be filed with the membership committee, and the Pennsylvania Association of FFA.

#### **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 five degrees of active membership based on individual achievement. These degrees are: (1) Greenhand FFA Degree, (2) Chapter FFA Degree, (3) Red Rose Degree, (4) Keystone FFA Degree, and (5) 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 Red Rose FFA Degree are entitled to wear the round, red rose pin. All members holding the Keystone 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 National 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 National Constitution.)

1. Must have received the Greenhand FFA Degree.
2. Must have satisfactorily completed the equivalent of at least 180 hours 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/or 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 submit a written application for the Chapter FFA Degree.

**Section D.** Red Rose FFA Degree. Minimum qualifications for selection:

1. Qualifications for the Red Rose FFA Degree are those set forth in the constitution of the Lancaster County FFA association and National FFA Organization.

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

1. Qualifications for the State FFA Degree are those set forth in the constitution of the state FFA association and National FFA Organization.

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

1. Qualifications for the American FFA Degree are those set forth in the constitution of the National FFA Organization.

## **ARTICLE VI - Chapter Officers**

**Section A.** The offices of the Manheim FFA chapter shall be: president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, reporter, sentinel, chaplain, historian, student advisor, and junior student advisor. The teacher(s) of agricultural education shall be the FFA advisor(s). Chapter officers shall be elected annually by the members present at any regular meeting of the chapter.

**Section B.** Candidates for the office of president must have held a previous office and be a junior or senior during their term.

**Section C.** The Student Advisor shall be chosen by the Adult Advisor from the officer candidates who, not elected for the first office of their choice, have requested to be considered for this office. If no candidate requests this office, the Adult Advisor shall assume the duties of the Student Advisor for the year.

**Section D.** The Junior Student Advisor shall be chosen in October by the current officer team out of a pool of freshman candidates recommended by the Adult Advisor.

## **ARTICLE VII - Dues**

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

**Section B.** Full local, county, 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, county, state and national FFA dues.

## **ARTICLE VIII - Amendments**

**Section A.** Constitutional amendments may be presented at any regular chapter meeting and passed at a subsequent 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 presented at any regular chapter meeting and passed at a subsequent 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.

# **Bylaws**

## **ARTICLE I – Relationship to the Constitution**

The bylaws shall be part of the Constitution of the Manheim FFA Chapter.

## **ARTICLE II – Meetings**

**Section A.** Meetings shall be held monthly or more often throughout the year, in accordance with the constitution of the Pennsylvania Association of FFA.

**Section B.** Meetings may be of a business, educational, or recreational nature.

**Section C.** Meetings dates not published in the Manheim Central High School calendar shall be announced to the membership at least one week prior to the event.

## **Article III – Fiscal Accounting**

**Section A.** All accounts of the Manheim FFA shall be maintained by the Manheim Central School District.

**Section B.** The fiscal year shall start July 1 and end June 30.

**Section C.** All monies spent by the chapter shall have written approval of both the Adult Advisor and the chapter treasurer. In the event the treasurer is

unavailable to approve the expenditure of funds, the president may approve that expenditure, and notify the treasurer of such.

Section D. All expenditures over \$100 must be approved by the chapter.

#### **Article IV – Election of Officers**

Section A. Officer applications and their corresponding duties shall be presented to the membership one month prior to the annual awards banquet.

Section B. At a general membership meeting scheduled within seven days prior to the awards banquet, the officer candidates will be presented to the membership and voted on by secret ballot.

Section C. The newly elected officer team will be presented at the annual awards banquet, and will take office at the start of the next fiscal year.

#### **Article V – Committees**

Section A. The president shall appoint the chairmen for the following standing committees at the September monthly membership meeting: Individual Leadership, Healthy Lifestyle, SAE, Scholarship, Ag Career Skills, Recruitment, Finance, Public Relations, Team Leadership, Support Group, Economics, Environmental, Human Resources, Citizenship, and Ag Awareness.

Section B. Members shall request to serve on a minimum of three standing committees when they complete their annual membership application and submit dues. Members will be appointed to serve on two standing committees of their choice at the October monthly meeting.

Section C. The president shall have the authority to appoint special committees as needed throughout the year.

The following Manheim FFA members have accepted this constitution on April 28, 2003: