

# Star District Area XII FFA Constitution & By-Laws

## Article 1: Name & Purpose

**Section A:** The name of this organization shall be the Star District FFA. Members are hereby referred to as FFA members.

**Section B:** The Purposes for which the Star District has been formed are as follows.

1. To develop competent, aggressive rural & agriculture leadership.
2. To create & nurture a love of the country/urban life.
3. To strengthen the confidence of young men & women in themselves & their work.
4. To create more interest in the intelligent choice of agriculture occupations & careers.
5. To encourage members in the development of individual agriculture programs.
6. To encourage members to improve their local environment, home & it's surroundings.
7. To participate in worthy undertakings for the improvement of agriculture.
8. To develop character, improve culture, train for useful citizenship & foster patriotism.
9. To participate in cooperative efforts.
10. To encourage & practice thrift.
11. To provide & encourage the development of organized rural recreational activities.
12. To provide & encourage the development of organized rural recreational activities.

## Article 2: Organization

**Section A:** The Star District Area XII FFA is a member of the Area XII Association & Texas FFA Association, which is chartered by the National FFA Organization.

**Section B:** The Star District Area XII is accepting, in full, the provisions in the constitution & by-laws of the Texas FFA Association, as well as those of the National FFA Organization.

## Article 3 Membership

**Section A:** Membership in the Star District Area XII is open to any school with an Agricultural Education Department meeting the requirements set up by the state constitution & residing in the Star District Area XII.

#### **Article 4: Emblem**

**Section A:** The emblem of the FFA shall be the emblem of the Star District Area XII

**Section B:** Emblems used by the Star District Area XII shall be designed by the National FFA Organization.

#### **Article 5: Meetings**

**Section A:** Regular meetings will include fall and the Star District Area XII banquet, The Agriscience teachers at their summer professional improvement conference will designate the dates. Special meetings of Agriscience teachers or district officers may be called as needed. The district advisor should be informed of any district officer meetings.

**Section B:** Standard meeting paraphernalia will be used at each meeting. Standard ceremonies and Jarrell D. Gray's Parliamentary Procedure will be used.

**Section C:** Meetings concerning district business will be designated and delegates should be present to transact business. These delegates are specified by the State Constitution.

**Section D:** A majority of the chapters listed in the Secretary's roll of membership will constitute a quorum and this quorum must be present at any regular meeting of which business is transacted or a vote taken committing the Star District to any proposal.

#### **Article 6: Dues**

**Section A:** Dues for the Star District Area XII will be set annually by student delegates at the annual convention or other posted meetings. Chapters shall be notified in writing of a proposed change no later than 30 days prior to the meeting at which such dues changes are to be deliberated and considered by the student delegates.

**Section B:** Chapters will be considered as active and in good standing when District, Area, State, and National dues are paid in full. All fall semester dues are to be paid by November 1<sup>st</sup> and spring semester dues are to be paid by March 1<sup>st</sup>. Full payment of dues must be mailed to the Star District Teacher Treasurer.

#### **Article 7: Amendments**

**Section A:** This constitution may be changed or altered at any regular Star District Area XII meeting by two-thirds vote of chapters present, providing it is not in conflict with the State or National FFA Organization. Notice of proposed changes to the constitution must be sent to each chapter a minimum of 30 days prior to the meeting in which the changes will be voted.

**Section B:** By-Laws may be adopted to fit the need of the District 2 Area XII at any regular meeting by a two thirds vote of the chapter president, providing such By-Laws do not conflict with State or National FFA Organization. Notice of proposed changes to the By-Laws must be sent to each chapter a minimum of 30 days prior to the meeting in which the changes will be vote.

## BY- LAWS

### Article 1: Fiscal Year

**Section A:** The fiscal year will be from August 1<sup>st</sup> to July 31<sup>st</sup> of the following year.

### Article 2: Program Activities

**Section A:** Star District Officers will develop a program of activities listing official district functions including fall & spring meeting, district banquet & district leadership contest. Other functions officers may decide on should also be included. All expenses will be pre-approved by the executive committee.

### Article 3: Executive Committee

**Section A:** The Executive Committee will consist of the district officers & their advisors for those schools having more than one advisor, only one will be eligible to vote.

**Section B:** The Executive Committee will have full power to act as necessary for the district in accordance with actions taken at district meetings & various regulations or By-Laws adopted from time to time.

### Article 4: Star District officers

**Section A:** Star District Officers will consist of the President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Reporter, Sentinel, and Student Advisor. The Advisor of the Star District is the Advisor of the elected President.

**Section B:** Star District Officers candidates must have met the qualifications for the Chapter FFA Degree during their year of service. Candidates must have been an active FFA member for the entire current school year. Candidates must be finishing their second year of membership (9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade) the year in which they are running for district office, and students must be enrolled in high school for the duration of their office.

**Section C:** Officers will be elected annually by a majority of delegates present at the spring district meeting. The officers shall be elected by a combination of exam score 20%, interview score 30%, and a score derived from the vote of the delegates present 50%. The District officer election process may be altered for one given year if there is a lack of officer candidates by the Executive Committee and this information will be available 10 days prior to the District banquet. The election process is as follows.

1. Each chapter may send two district officer candidates
2. Officer candidates must complete and submit an application verifying their qualifications prior to running for office.
3. Each officer candidate should be prepared to pass an exam using the study guide and reference material for the State Senior Quiz LDE.
4. Each officer candidate should be prepared to give a speech and answer a thought question. The speech time limit is a maximum of 3 minutes.

5. Round 1 of voting: Each delegate will have 2 votes. By majority votes, the candidate field will be narrowed to six candidates using the percentages: 20% exam score, 30% interview score & 50% from a score derived from the vote of the delegates present.
6. Round 2 of Voting: Each delegate will have 1 vote. The vote will be inserted into the formula again and the highest score will become the President, the runner-up will be Vice-President & additional officers continue in descending order of scores.
7. Officers will assume their duties upon officer installation at the Star District banquet.
8. After installation all officers must sign a contract promising to fulfill all of their duties & engage in proper behavior at all times.
9. If for any reason a student office becomes vacant, the executive committee shall fill the office with a qualified officer from the slate of officer candidates at the immediately prior elections. If for any reason the office of president should become vacant, the student officer who received the next highest score in the election for president shall become president.
10. Student officers shall serve from one student convention through the next succeeding convention and shall not be re-elected, or be eligible for re-election to another Star District student office.

#### **Article 5: Area & State Officer Candidate**

**Section A:** Each chapter may send *the amount of delegates voted on by Area XII* for Area XII and State officer candidates. The district will not limit the number of candidates who may apply for Area XII or State Office.

**Section B:** All Area officer candidates must hold the Chapter FFA Degree, must be completing at least their second year in high school & must be enrolled in high school for the duration of their office.

**Section C:** All state officer candidates must hold the Lone Star FFA Degree at the time of election to state office.

**Section D:** All Area & State officer candidates must complete and application verifying their qualifications prior to running for office.

**Section E:** All area & state candidates will follow guidelines for area and state officer elections.

#### **Article 6: Jackets & Camp**

**Section A:** Star District will pay for the Star District Officer's jacket and one unified officer team shirt.

**Section B:** The Star District will pay for the district officer's Area XII Leadership camp fees and the District Leadership Convention fees.

**Article 7: Contests**

**Section A: Fees and Awards**

1. Fees will be paid according to instructions on the entry form distributed by the Star District Treasurer
2. Awards will be given in the following manner:
  - a. Three awards in events with five or less teams
  - b. Four awards for events with six to ten teams
  - c. Five awards in events with greater than eleven teams

**Section B:** Career Development events will be held in conjunction with the Area Contests. The Star District will follow the rules set up by the state Organization regarding number of teams and members.

**Sections C:** Leadership Development Events will be conducted in accordance to State and National Rules at the Star District contests in the fall.

**Section D:** Public and Extemporaneous Speaking Leadership Development Events will be held at the same time as the Star District Check in the spring. State and National Rules regarding these events will be used.

**Section E:** Talent Contest will be held at the Star District banquet. State rules regarding this event will be followed.

**Section F:** Two sweepstakes awards will be given. One for Career Development Events, and one for Leadership Development Events. The Star District Teacher Secretary is responsible for obtaining placings and Calculating Sweepstakes winners. Rules for calculating Sweepstakes Winners are as follows.

1. The number of points awarded for each contest will depend on the total number of entries. The highest point awarded will be the total number of entries for that contest and will go down one point for each additional placing.
2. An example for placing teams and what they will receive is:

***11 teams participating:***

1<sup>st</sup> place – 11 points  
2<sup>nd</sup> place – 10 points  
3<sup>rd</sup> place – 9 points  
4<sup>th</sup> place – 8 points  
5<sup>th</sup> place – 7 points  
6<sup>th</sup> place – 6 points  
7<sup>th</sup> place – 5 points  
8<sup>th</sup> place – 4 points  
9<sup>th</sup> place – 3 points  
10<sup>th</sup> place – 2 points  
11<sup>th</sup> place – 1 point

***4 teams participating:***

1<sup>st</sup> place – 4 points  
2<sup>nd</sup> place – 3 points  
3<sup>rd</sup> place – 2 points  
4<sup>th</sup> place – 1 point

3. The school with the most points will be the winner of the sweepstakes award. If there is a tie, the school with the most first place teams will be declared the winner. If a tie still remains, the school with the most second place teams will be declared the winner.
4. Leadership Development Events and Career Development Events will be conducted in accordance to State and National Rules at the Star District contest.

**Article 8: Star District Degree Check**

**Section A:** The following accomplishments will be awarded at Star District check and recognized at Star District banquet. All awards will be based on the State Organization Rules. Star Awards Greenhands, Chapter, State, American, (including Production and Agribusiness) Proficiency & scholarships candidates. Career Development Events and Leadership Development Events winning teams will also be recognized at Star District banquet.

**Article 9: Delegate Apportionment**

**Section A:** Chapter voting delegates will be apportioned using the following scale:

- 1 to 100 members – 2 voting delegates
- 101 to 150 members – 3 voting delegates
- 151 to 200 members – 4 voting delegates
- 201 to 250 members – 5 voting delegates
- 251 to 300 members – 6 voting delegates
- 301 to 350 members – 7 voting delegate

## Area XII - Star District FFA Officer Contract

**As a Star District Officer, I understand and agree that I am expected to attend the following, in their entirety:** *(All absences must be approved by the executive board. You must submit a written request to the Area Leadership Coordinator 15 days before the event. This must be on school letterhead and signed by the school administrator for the reason for missing the event. You will only be allowed to miss two unexcused events per your year of service.)*

- **Area XII Convention - Temple**
  - **Will be running the district delegate sign-in and balloting**
- **Area XII FFA Leadership Camp**
  - **Eagle's Wing Retreat, Burnet TX**
- **District Leadership Camp**
  - **Tanglewood, Lexington**
- **District Leadership Events - fall TBD**
- **District Banquet - spring TBD**

As a Star District Officer, I will:

1. Be dedicated and committed to FFA and the total agricultural education program.
2. Be willing to commit the entire year to Star District Officer Activities:
3. Be willing to take and follow instructions as directed by those responsible for me.
4. Follow the State officer code of ethics:
  - a. To forgo all alcohol and tobacco while involved in official and unofficial FFA activities.
  - b. To treat all FFA members equally by not favoring one over another.
  - c. To conduct myself in a manner that commands respect without display of superiority.
  - d. To maintain dignity while being personable, concerned and interested in my contacts with others.
  - e. To avoid places or activities which in any way would raise questions as to my moral character or conduct.
  - f. To consider FFA officer activities and school as my primary responsibility.
  - g. To use wholesome language in all speeches and informal conversations.
  - h. To maintain proper dress and good grooming for all occasions.
  - i. Work in harmony with fellow FFA officers, and not knowingly engage in conversations detrimental to other FFA members, officers and adults.
  - j. To serve as a member of the district officer team, always maintaining a cooperative attitude.
  - k. To keep myself up to date on current events.
  - l. Maintain and protect my health.
  - m. To be a professional and be on time.

If the District Officer fails to complete any of the duties of the office to which they are elected or fails to attend any of the required events, the Star District Executive Committee may remove the officer from office. If an officer is removed from office at any time during the year, the chapter and student are responsible for reimbursing the Star District Association for any costs incurred



on behalf of the district officer during their time of office; including but not limited to: jacket, team apparel, ALC, DLC, etc.

**Officer Certification**

If, at any time, I cannot fulfill the obligation to attend/participate in a required activity, I will notify in writing the District Leadership Development Coordinator and the event coordinator as soon as I know of the conflict. The District Leadership Development Coordinator will then notify the Star District Executive Officer Team. Each incident will be reviewed. If it is deemed necessary to take action, the executive committee will review the request and act upon it. Matters concerning personal illness and/or family emergency will be excused.

I have read, studied, understood and accepted the above points. As an officer, I will carry out my responsibilities in accordance with these statements and understand that I may be removed from office if I do not satisfactorily follow these established standards for District officers. I also understand that I will be responsible for paying back the District for any expenses incurred during my service as officer.

Officer's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Advisors: By signing this commitment, you agree with the rules set out in the Area officer pledge. As the chapter advisor to this officer, you are obligated to report any violations of this code of conduct to the District Coordinator.

Advisor's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_