

# Middle School FFA

## Constitution and Bylaws

### Article I. Name

The name of the organization shall be the Middle FFA.

### Article II. Objectives

The objectives of the organization shall be consistent with Section 3 of the organization's federal charter. The organization shall cooperate with the local school system, the local community, the state association, and the national organization to accomplish the following:

1. To be an integral part of the organized instructional program in agricultural education at Middle School, in order to prepare students for a wide range of careers in agriculture related fields.
2. To strengthen the confidence of students in themselves and in their work by developing desirable work habits and the effective usage of their time; by learning to assume responsibility; and by developing competencies in communications, human relations, and other social abilities leading to the intelligent choice of a career and successful employment or entrepreneurship in the agriculture industry.
3. To provide agriculture related programs and activities which will develop pride, responsibility, leadership, character, scholarship, citizenship, patriotism, and thrift; which will improve the economic, environmental, recreational, and human resources of the community.
4. To encourage and recognize achievement in supervised agriculture experience programs, scholarship, leadership, and other individual and group activities by providing awards to deserving members.
5. To prepare students for a career pathway in a desired field for their high school experience through enriching activities, experiences and education.

# Article III. Organization

The Middle FFA is the organization of, by, and for students enrolled in agricultural education at Middle School. It is a chapter in the Kentucky Association and the National FFA Organization.

# Article IV. Membership

Membership in the Middle FFA shall be of three types- active, honorary, and alumni.

To be considered an Active member, a student must:

1. Be enrolled in at least one agricultural education course at Middle School during the school year for which membership is desired.
2. Members must be in the 6<sup>th</sup>, 7th or 8th grade to be considered a member on the state roster.
3. Show an interest in the affairs and activities of the chapter by attending meetings of the chapter, striving for advanced degrees, and participating in chapter activities.
4. Pay regional, state, and national dues as well as local dues determined by the chapter.
5. Display conduct consistent with the ideals, principles, and values of the National FFA Organization.
6. Membership may be revoked if a member does not act in accordance with the FFA Code of Ethics as outlined in the National FFA Manual.

Upon completion of the students experience at Middle School the student will have the opportunity to pursue further membership at the high school level and with their corresponding chapters.

Honorary membership- Farmers, school superintendents, principals, members of boards of education, chapter advisors, teachers, staff members in agricultural education, business people and others who are working to advance agricultural education and the FFA and who have rendered outstanding service may be elected to honorary membership. Individuals may be nominated for honorary membership by any active member of the Thomas Nelson FFA. Honorary members will be selected by the executive committee at the April Executive meeting. Honorary membership shall be awarded at the FFA Banquet following election by the committee.

# Article V. Degrees and Privileges of Membership

Members have the opportunity to begin keeping a system of records to be accounted for in their high school experience. Middle School FFA will strive to promote membership with local recognition

The Discovery Degree may be awarded to members in 8<sup>th</sup> grade who meet the following requirements.

- Participated in at least one local FFA chapter activity outside of scheduled class time.
- Have knowledge of agriculturally related career, ownership, and entrepreneurial opportunities.
- Are familiar with the local chapter's Program of Activities.
- Have submitted an application for the degree.

# Article VI. Officers and Procedures for Election

The elected officers of the Middle FFA shall be a president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, reporter, and sentinel.

These officers shall serve a term of one year, which shall begin with their installation and end with the installation of the next set of officers.

Chapter officers are expected to attend meetings and represent the chapter in the community. Chapter officers are expected to remain in good graces with behavior and grades. Grades should remain at near mastery to mastery levels.

Members wishing to serve as officers shall complete a written application which shall be turned in according to announced chapter policy. The candidates shall be interviewed and slated by the nominating committee.

The committee shall interview the candidates at a predetermined time and location and choose a slate of officers. The slate will be approved at a meeting through a voice vote by chapter members. The retiring officers will install the new team. Officers must be in the 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grade to be slated.

Chapter officers are expected to serve as examples for all members to follow. Officers shall be provided with a copy of chapter policy for officer behavior and responsibilities, as well as a list of expectations. They will sign a copy of this, which shall be kept on file by the advisor. Officers who are in violation of chapter policies may be reprimanded, asked to resign, or be removed.

In the event that an officer resigns or is removed from office, the Leadership Committee Chairman shall assume the office and carry out all the duties thereof. In the event that the President resigns or is removed from office, the Vice President shall become the President and the Leadership Committee Chairman shall become the Vice President. Furthermore the advisor shall have the ability to appoint a committee to interview and slate an officer to fill the missing spot.

## **Article VII. Committees**

The Middle FFA shall have the following committees: Growing Leaders, Building Communities, and Strengthening Agriculture.

The nomination committee shall select a chairman and secretary for each standing committee. Committee chairmen must be at least second year FFA members.

Each committee shall be responsible for certain activities and functions as outlined in the chapter program of activities. The committee is expected to meet once a month or as needed to plan and carry out these activities. The committee shall report on accomplishments and plans at each regular FFA meeting.

Committee officers and members will be expected to carry out all responsibilities related to their positions. They may be removed in the event that they are not.

## **Article VIII. Meetings**

Regular meetings shall be held each month. During the school year, meetings will be held on club day at a time and place determined by the school administration. Summer meetings will be determined by Chapter needs, if possible a meeting may be held at the Kentucky Leadership Training Center. Special meetings may be called by the president, on an as needed basis.

Executive committee meetings shall be held at least once each month. The executive committee shall consist of the officers and chapter leaders. Decisions of the executive committee shall be binding.

Meetings shall include all official FFA ceremonies as outlined in the "Official FFA Manual." The most recent edition of Dunbars "Parliamentary Procedure Made Easy" will be available to follow for parliamentary rules/questions.

## **Article IX. Activities and Awards**

Activities shall be planned by the advisors, officers, and committees in order to meet the objectives of the organization. These activities shall be outlined in the chapter program of activities, which shall be made available to all members upon request.

Chapter policies for contests, awards, and activities shall be contained in a chapter handbook, which shall also be available upon request.

The officers, advisors, and committees shall inform members of various activities and awards that are available. Every effort shall be made to insure that all members are aware of the opportunities that are available to them.