

Local Chapter Constitution

Updated: 8/26/2022

ARTICLE I - Name and Purposes

Section A: The name of this organization shall be the “La Plata FFA Chapter.”

Members are herein after referred to as “Future Farmers of America.” The letters “FFA” may be used to designate the chapter, its activities, or members thereof.

Section B: The purposes for which this chapter is formed are as follows:

1. To develop competent and assertive agricultural leadership.
2. To increase awareness of the global and technological importance of agriculture and its contribution to our well-being.
3. To strengthen the confidence of agriculture students in themselves and their work.
4. To promote the intelligent choice and establishment of an agricultural career.
5. To encourage achievement in supervised agricultural experience programs.
6. To encourage wise management of economic, environmental and human resources of the community.
7. To develop interpersonal skills in teamwork, communications, human relations and social interaction.
8. To build character and promote citizenship, volunteerism and patriotism.
9. To promote cooperation and cooperative attitudes among all people.
10. To promote healthy lifestyles.
11. To encourage excellence in scholarship.

Section C: FFA makes a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth, and career success through agriculture education.

ARTICLE II – Organization

Section A: The La Plata Chapter of the FFA is a chartered local unit of the Missouri FFA Association which is chartered by the National FFA Organization.

Section B: This chapter accepts in full the provisions in the constitution and bylaws of the Missouri FFA Association as well as those of the National FFA Association; and Area III of the Missouri Association.

ARTICLE III – Emblem

Section A: The official emblem of the National FFA Organization shall be the emblem for the chapter. The emblem includes five symbols, namely: the plow, representing labor and tillage of the soil; the owl, representing wisdom; the rising sun, representing progress; a cross-section of an ear of corn, representing the common agricultural interests; and an American eagle surmounting the cross-section of the ear of corn, representing the national scope of the organization. The emblem also includes the letters “FFA” and the words “Agricultural Education.”

Section B: All members are entitled to display the emblem, and those designated by the National FFA Organization.

ARTICLE IV – 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: Active membership shall be all students enrolled in an agriculture class that have paid their dues annually.

Section C: The regular work of this chapter shall be carried on by the active membership.

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. Students attend local chapter meetings and participate in at least 75% of chapter activities.
2. Students show an interest in, and take part in the affairs of the chapter.
3. Students must be enrolled in an Agriculture Class for at least 1 semester and pay their dues annually.
4. Students complete record book forms 11 and 12 annually.
5. Students behave in a good manner determined by the FFA Advisors and school administration.

Section E: Active members are expected to uphold the FFA Code of Conduct, Rules of the Jacket, and student expectations at all times and especially when representing the FFA and/or attending school or school functions.

- The following expectations and rules are grounds for a 10-day suspension from all FFA Activities in addition to repercussions for students serving as chapter/area/state officers including removal from the chapter if deemed necessary.
- Opting to not participate in the La Plata R-II High School Drug Testing program.
 - A positive result from a drug screening test conducted through the district.
 - Attempting to adulterate or alter the outcome of a drug test.
 - Reasonable suspicion of use of illegal substances.

- Possessing and/or using alcohol and/or tobacco products (not limited to, but including: beer, wine, liquor, cigarettes, pipes, electronic cigarettes, cigars, chewing tobacco, and snuff) while on school premises or on a school-related function.
- Being convicted of any crime (not including motor vehicle violations, unless involving alcohol and/or drug use).
- Being found guilty of the following infractions in the Student Handbook: harassment, inappropriate sexual misconduct, assault, possessing a weapon, extortion, false alarms (fire or bomb), theft, vandalism, arson.
- Possession and/or sale of a controlled substance.
- Possession of drug paraphernalia.

Section F: Alumni membership is any member or business who has an interest in the La Plata FFA Chapter and supports the La Plata FFA Chapter by paying annual dues.

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

ARTICLE V - Membership Degrees and Privileges

Section A: There shall be four degrees of active membership in this chapter. These Degrees are: (1) Greenhand FFA Degree, (2) Chapter FFA Degree, (3) State FFA Degree, and (4) American FFA Degree.

1. Greenhand FFA Degree recipients are entitled to wear the official bronze emblem pin.
2. Chapter FFA Degree recipients are entitled to wear the official silver emblem degree pin.
3. State FFA Degree recipients are entitled to wear the official gold emblem charm.
4. American FFA Degree recipients are entitled to wear the official gold emblem key.

The members are entitled to wear the degree pins for the highest degree obtained.

Section B: The minimum qualifications for the levels shall be those set forth by the constitution of the Missouri FFA Association.

ARTICLE VI – Officers

Section A: The officers of the chapter shall be as follows: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Reporter, and Sentinel. Second Vice-President, Historian, Parliamentarian and Chaplain are optional. The local Advisors shall be the teachers of vocational agriculture in the school where the chapter is located. Officers shall perform the usual duties of their respective offices.

Section B: Eligible members in good standing shall apply and be elected annually by an interviewing committee and approved by a majority vote of the members present at any FFA meeting. If the slate of officers is not approved, the interviewing committee will meet again and

select a new slate of officers. The President and Vice President must hold the Chapter degree at the time of application. Eligible candidates must have no grade below a C at the time of application.

Section C: The interviewing committee, if available, shall consist of Senior FFA Officers and a minimum of 2 adults chosen by the Advisor from the La Plata FFA Chapter.

Section D: The interviewing committee will use the following scoring rubric as a guide for selecting officers. 30% FFA Participation Score, 10% Character/Teacher Reference, 20% Application, and 40 % Interview.

Section E: The Chapter Officers and Advisors shall constitute the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee shall have full power to act as necessary for the chapter in accordance with sections taken at chapter meetings and various regulations or bylaws adopted from time to time.

Section F: Honorary members shall not vote nor shall they hold any office in the chapter except that of the Advisor.

Section G: Chapter officers must hold the Greenhand FFA Degree.

Section H: All officers are required to attend Area Workshops.

Section I: All Chapter Officers will sign an “Officer Agreement”. Failure to abide by the agreement will result in consequences as outlined in the Chapter By-Laws.

ARTICLE VII – Meetings

Section A: Regular chapter meetings shall be held once a month during the school year at such time and place as it is designated by the Chapter Executive Committee. Special meetings may be called at any time by the Executive Committee.

Section B: Standard meeting paraphernalia shall be used at each meeting. All regular meetings shall open and close with the official ceremony. Roberts Rule of Order shall be the official rule of authority in all FFA meetings. Parliamentary Procedure shall be used in transacting all business at each meeting.

Section C: Delegates, as specified by the State Constitution, shall be elected annually from the active membership to represent the chapter at the State Convention. Other delegates may be named as necessary in order to have proper representation at various other FFA meetings with the State.

Section D: A “quorum” shall consist of a majority of In-School members listed on the secretary’s membership roll for all meetings held during school. A quorum for before school,

after school, and or summer meetings shall be 10% of the total In-School members as listed on the secretary's membership roll.

ARTICLE VIII – Dues

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

Section B: Full, Local, 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, State, and National FFA dues.

ARTICLE IX – 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 Organization of FFA.

Section B: Bylaws may be adopted to fit the needs of the chapter meeting by a two-thirds vote of the active members present providing such bylaws conflict in no way with the constitution and bylaws of either the State Association or the National Organization.