**Joplin FFA Chapter Constitution**

**Article I -** Name, Mission and Strategies

Section A. The name of this organization shall be the Joplin 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 agriculture career.

5. Encourages achievement in supervised agriculture 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 interactions.

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 Joplin Chapter of the FFA is a charted local unit of the Area 9 and Missouri Association of FFA which is charted by the National FFA Organization.

Section B. This chapter accepts in full the provisions in the constitution and bylaws of the Area 9 and Missouri Association of the 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 agriculture 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, 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.

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

**Article IV -** Emblems

Section A. The emblem of the FFA shall be the emblem of the chapter.

Section B. Emblems used by the members shall be designated by the national organization of the FFA.

**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, (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 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 a knowledge of the FFA Code of Ethics and the proper use of the FFA jacket.

5. Demonstrate a 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 Degree.

2. Must have satisfactorily completed the equivalent of at least 180 hours of systematic school instruction in agricultural instruction 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 $150.00 by the member’s own efforts or worked at least forty-five hours in excess of the schedules 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 towards individual achievement in the FFA award programs.

8. Must have satisfactory scholastic records.

9. Must submit a written application for the Chapter Degree.

Section D. 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 E. 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. 1. The officers of the Joplin FFA Chapter shall be: president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, reporter, and sentinel. These offices must remain filled, and if vacated will be filled according to Article VI, Section E.

2. Other chapter officers may be elected as deemed appropriate by the local advisor/ and or governing body. These officers may include but are not limited to: parliamentarian, historian, chaplain, student advisor, 2nd vice president, 3rd vice president, and assistant or co-officer of any of the positions listed in Article VI, Section A, parts 1 and 2. These offices may remain vacant, but can be filled according to Article VI, Section E.

3. The teacher(s) of agricultural education shall be the FFA advisor(s).

4. Chapter officers shall be elected annually by the members present at any regular meeting of the chapter.

5. The number of chapter officers shall not exceed more than 15% of the active membership, except in the case that the number of active members is less than 40.

6. Each eligible chapter officer applicant is not guaranteed an office.

Section B. Area and state officer candidates will be selected by a panel of at least three people, either agricultural advisors from different FFA chapters or FFA knowledgeable Joplin citizens, with final approval of candidate(s) by the advisor(s).

Section C. Members holding the Chapter FFA Degree, or higher, are eligible to hold a chapter office. If there is a shortage of qualified members applying for office, members holding the Greenhand FFA Degree will be eligible.

Section D. The Selection Committee shall choose the chapter officers. The chapter officer selection process shall consist of school attendance record, GPA, points from SAE (state degree points), official dress (10 points for each item), a 25 question FFA knowledge exam (4 points for each question), and total FFA participation points (based on chapter points chart). The candidates will also go through a 10-15 minute interview by the Selection Committee, with the total points deciding the top officers and then the interview committee will decide unanimously on a slate.

Section E. Officers who cannot fulfill their duties or who are impeached will be

replaced in the following manner:

1. If there is an assistant or co-officer for the vacant position, he or she shall take the place of the officer vacancy. This procedure should be followed with each office. If this situation is not present, see Article VI, Section E, Part 2.
2. The six primary offices (president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, reporter, and sentinel) shall change as little as possible. If any of these offices are vacated and no assistant or co-officer for the office exists, the office shall be filled by the officer who received the highest ranking from the Selection Committee, who is not classified as one of the six primary officers. However, the vice-president shall replace the former president & the secretary shall replace the former vice-president.
3. If all six primary offices cannot be filled due to lack of non-primary officers, the officer candidate with the highest ranking by the Selection Committee who did not receive an office shall fill the open position. If this does not fill all six primary offices, see Article VI, Section E, Part 4.
4. If all six primary offices cannot be filled due to lack of non-primary officers, the chapter shall nominate three potential candidates to fill each position. After approval of the candidates by the advisor(s), the chapter shall vote by secret ballot, at a regular or special meeting. The candidate with a 2/3-majority vote will fill the position.

Section F. No officer may be impeached without due process as defined in Article

VII.

Section G. The Selection Committee shall be composed of a minimum of seven members. The Committee should contain school faculty, agriculturally aware community representatives, all retiring 12th grade FFA chapter officers, and all current and incoming FFA advisor(s). The Selection Committee will review officer applications, conduct interviews of prospective candidates, and select each chapter officer via unanimous vote within the Selection Committee. Retiring 12th grade FFA chapter officers will not be a part of the vote, but shall individually rank the officer applicants from highest to lowest, give their ranking to the rest of the Selection Committee, and leave the Selection Committee to unanimously decide each chapter office.

Section H. The FFA officer team, and the Advisor(s) shall set the time for officer selection.

Section I. All newly elected chapter officers are required to attend the LEAD Conference, Joplin FFA Chapter Officer Retreat, and Area 9 Leadership Conference to be held the summer prior to the school year that they serve as an officer. Officers who do not attend these functions, except for reasons beyond their control, i.e. severe illness, death in the family, will be replaced in the manner described in Article IV, Section E.

**Article VII-** Impeachment of Officers

Section A. Immediate Impeachment: The FFA advisor(s) may remove, at any time at his/her own discretion, an officer who has violated policies or repeatedly disregarded his/her duties by not fulfilling them to his/her best ability.

Section B. Impeachment by leadership team: Step 1. Any FFA Chapter officer not fulfilling the duties as described by the National FFA constitution will be required to meet with fellow officers and advisor(s) to discuss a plan for improvement. Step 2. A written plan of improvement will be drawn by the advisor based on the conversation of the meeting in Step 1, and will be confirmed and signed by the FFA President, Vice-President, and by the Officer in question. Step 3. If the officer in question still does not fulfill his/her duties, then a 2/3 vote of the chapter officers and advisor(s) will remove that officer from office.

Section C. Impeachment by membership: at any regular chapter meeting a four-fifths vote of the active members present will remove that officer from office.

**Article VIII -** Dues

Section A. Local dues in this chapter shall be fixed prior to each school year by a majority vote of the officers, with approval by the advisor(s).

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 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 the FFA.

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 membership present providing such bylaws conflict in no way with the constitution and bylaws of either the state association or the national organization.