

District 2 4-H COUNCIL Bylaws

4-H Club Name: District 2 4-H Council

Date Adopted: July 11, 2019

The District 4-H Council is an advisory committee which assists in making plans and executing these plans on a district basis.

Delegates to the District 2 4-H Council shall be elected from the membership of the 20 county 4-H councils in the counties.

Section 1. The name of this organization shall be the District 2 4-H Council.

Section 2. The purpose shall be to promote and encourage 4-H club work and to coordinate 4-H activities in the district.

Section 3. The objectives of this organization shall be:

- i. Advise district Extension staff on program for 4-H youth.
- ii. Facilitate representation on the Texas 4-H Council.
- iii. Maintain linkage with county 4-H Councils.
- iv. Assist with the development and implementation of district events and activities.
- v. Provide opportunities for 4-H youth to learn democratic principles and procedures.
- vi. Interpret the 4-H program to the public.
- vii. Others as needed.

Section 4. This club is organized exclusively for charitable, educational and scientific purposes including, for such purposes, the making of distributions to organizations that qualify as exempt organizations under section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code.

Section 5. No part of the net earnings of this club shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to its members, trustees, officers or other private person, except that this club shall be empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payment and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth in this constitution.

Section 6. No substantial part of this club's activities shall be the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and this club shall not participate

in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of or in opposition to any candidate for public office.

- Section 7. Notwithstanding any other provisions of this constitution, this club shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on (a) by a corporation exempt from federal income tax under section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code, of (b) by a corporation, contributions, to which are deductible under section 170 (c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code.

ARTICLE II: MEMBERSHIP

- Section 1. Membership in this organization shall be open to all youth who have reached 8 years of age and have entered third grade and have not reached a maximum at of 18 and are still in the 12th grade as of September 1 of the current 4-H year. Members must also reside in county without regard to race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation or gender identity. Special education youth who are older than 19 and have not graduated from high school may participate in 4-H Youth Development programs as members, with approval by the county Extension agent. Participation is limited to the club or county level. County Extension staff have the option, on a case-by-case basis, to allow Special Education youth older than 19 to participate in competitive events at the club or county level.

Whenever necessary, the district Extension agents shall have the option of appointing members at large in order to insure a balanced membership.

- Section 2. New members must be enrolled annually through 4-H CONNECT and be approved as an active member. All members must re-enroll annually.
- Section 3. All members are required to pay the minimum state – level participation fees of \$20.00 on or before October 31st, or pay \$25.00 on or after November 1st.

- A. **Members:** Current District 2 Council executive committees and two delegates elected or chosen by each of the 20 county 4-H councils of the District 2 counties.
- B. **Age** - Council members shall be between the ages of 14 and 18 as of August 31st of the calendar year.
- C. **Term** -Members should be elected annually and shall be able to serve for two years, preferably not consecutively.
- D. **Replacement** - Should a county's representative become ineligible to serve, the county may elect a new representative. The county representative elected to complete the term shall be eligible to serve one complete term as county representative.

ARTICLE IV: DUTIES OF OFFICERS

OFFICERS - Officers of the District 2 Council shall be: President, First Vice-President, Second Vice-President, Third Vice-President, Secretary/Treasurer, Public Relations Chairman, and Member Advisor (if applicable).

- A. **Who** - Officers shall have experience on their county council and be available to serve for a full term. Any 4-Her in District 2 who meets other requirements detailed, shall be eligible.
- B. **Age** - All officers must be at least 16 years of age or older on August 31st of the 4-H year they serve; they must not be 19 years of age and still in the 12th grade by August 31st of the 4-H year they serve.
- C. **Special Requirements** - The President and First Vice-President need at least three years of 4-H membership including the current year.
- D. **Term** - The term of office for all officers shall be from September 1 to August 31. Officers shall not be eligible for the same office for more than one term. A delegate who has served as President may never be elected First Vice-President or a delegate who has served as First Vice-President may never be elected or no delegate may be elected President or Vice-President that violates the Texas 4-H Council standing rules. No person may hold more than one office at one time on the District 2 4-H Council.
- E. **Member Advisor** – Former State Council members will only be able to apply for the position of Member Advisor, which is reserved for former State Council members. In years where there are fewer than 10 applicants for the District 2 4-H Council, State Council members shall have the opportunity to run for other applicable district offices.

6. ANNUAL ELECTION OF OFFICERS

- A. **Annual Meeting** - An annual meeting for election of officers shall be held prior to July 3 at the District 2 Senior Leadership Lab.
- B. **Election** - Qualified delegates interested in seeking council office must apply to the District Extension Office by May 1, preceding District Elections by submitting an application/nomination form. Each application will be judged by a committee of Extension agents. The committee's recommendation will constitute 25% of the vote. Each applicant will go through an interview and the interview score will count for 30% of the vote. At the election meeting, each candidate will present a two minute speech the speech will be judged and count as 20% of the vote. At the election county council delegates will vote and their vote will constitute for 25% of the total vote.

No nominations will be taken from the floor. Elections should be by ballot. A majority constitutes an election.

D. Reports - Officers and committee chairmen shall give reports of the work that has been done during their term of office at the annual meeting.

7. **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE** - The Executive Committee shall be composed of the President, the First Vice-President, Second Vice-President, Third Vice-President, Secretary-Treasurer, Public Relations Chairman and Member Advisor. The preceding President may serve as advisor at the first meeting but will not have a vote. The Executive Committee shall elect members to fill vacancies in the District Council offices.
8. **STANDING COMMITTEES** - Standing committees shall be the District Roundup and Fashion Show, Electric Camp, Gold Star Banquet and Food Show/Nutrition Quiz Bowl Committees. Members of the Executive Committee shall serve as chairmen of the various committees. These committees shall be on a rotating basis. Each Council member will serve on one committee.
9. **ADDITIONAL COMMITTEES** - Additional committees may be appointed at any time and in any way the Executive Committee determines advisable.
10. **VOTING BODY** - The voting body shall consist of the membership as defined in Rule 4. Each of the counties shall have two votes to cast in elections or business votes. Each of the delegates must be present to cast their vote. Each delegate may cast only one vote.
11. **MEETINGS** - In addition to the annual meeting, there shall be other meetings called by the Executive Committee as needed.
12. **OFFICER PARTICIPATION**- Officers of the District 2 4-H Council will participate in all events and activities assigned by the District 2 4-H Council Advisors and District 2 4-H Specialist. These following events are mandatory and if missed can result in being asked to step down as a District 2 4-H Council Officer: Gold Star Banquet, District 2 4-H Officer Training. If an officer misses more than one of the following events they may also be asked to step down as a District 2 4-H Council Officer: District 2 4-H Food Show, District 2 4-H Fashion Show or any other District event assigned to by the District 2 4-H Council Advisors and 4-H Specialist.
13. **REPLACEMENT OF OFFICERS**- In the event that a currently elected officer is removed from office in any form the position will remain open until the next year's election.
13. **QUORUM** - A quorum shall consist of a majority of delegates present.
14. **STATE COUNCIL** -Delegates to the State Council will be the President and the First Vice-President. Alternates to the State 4-H Council will be in this order: Second Vice-

President, Third Vice-President, Secretary-Treasurer, and Public Relations Chairman.

15. **ADVISORS** - The District 2 4-H Council shall have three county Extension agents as advisors to be appointed by the District Extension Director. Each standing committee shall have advisors that will also be appointed by the District Extension Directors.
16. **AMENDMENTS** - These rules may be amended by a two-thirds vote at any regular meeting.
17. **SPECIAL RULE** - There shall be no alcoholic beverages, tobacco products or drugs (unless prescribed by a doctor) in possession of any 4-H member traveling to, from, or during 4-H activities. All members must sign a current State 4-H Code of Conduct form.

ARTICLE IX: FISCAL ACCOUNTABILITY

Section 1: The 4-H club/group shall adhere to all guidelines related to financial accountability as outlined in the Texas 4-H Youth Development 4-H Club Financial Management Rules and Guidelines.

ARTICLE X: CLUB DISBANDMENT

Upon the disbandment of the club, all real property, including money, equipment and land shall become the property of the County 4-H Program for care and disposition and authorizes the Texas A&M Agrilife Extension Service and county extension agent(s) full rights to access bank records, bank funds, and all other banking authority. This also applies to all inventory and assets acquired by and or owed by this organization.

The last official duty of the club's manager shall be to affect the transfer of club property and to turn over club records to the county Extension Agent.

ARTICLE XI: AMENDMENTS

These bylaws may be amended at any regular meeting of the club by a two-thirds vote of the members present, provided that the proposed amendments have been presented to the club in writing and filed with the secretary at the previous meeting of the club. Amendments must not conflict with the basic 4-H philosophy. These amendments are effective upon the affirmative vote of the members present.

Approval of Bylaws: _____

District 4-H Specialist

Date