

Alamo District FFA Constitution

ARTICLE I - Name, Mission and Strategies

Section A. The name of this organization shall be The Alamo District FFA of the National FFA Organization.

Section B. The mission and strategies for this district 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 agricultural career.
5. Encourages achievement in supervised agricultural 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 interaction.
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 Alamo District FFA is a chartered district unit of the Texas Association of FFA, which is chartered by the National FFA Organization.

Section B. This district accepts in full the provisions in the constitution and bylaws of the Texas Association of FFA as well as those of the National FFA Organization.

Section C. The advisors from the chapters in good standing, from the Alamo District, shall elect each year (at the Texas Agricultural Science Teacher's Conference) an executive committee. The Alamo Executive Committee shall consist of, but shall not be limited to, a president, secretary, and treasurer. The Alamo District Advisors' President, Secretary, and Treasurer shall be elected by the advisors of the Alamo District FFA chapters. The Alamo FFA District Executive Committee shall be responsible for:

1. Collection of District dues for the Alamo District
Treasurer's Responsibility
2. Ordering of the District Awards
Treasurer's Responsibility
3. Running the Alamo District Advisor's Meeting
President's Responsibility
4. Keeping the minutes from the Advisors' Meetings
Secretary's Responsibility
5. Official correspondence of the Alamo District
Secretary's Responsibility
6. Validating district winning teams
President's Responsibility

7. Handling grievances
8. Informing the Chapters within the Alamo district of information
9. The Alamo District Executive Committee shall not be paid for their service, but shall be reimbursed for any expenses made on the behalf the operation of the Alamo District, provide reasonable documentation is provided.
10. Advisors on the executive committee shall not be make determination on a grievance, if it directly affects their student or school. A neutral party shall be appointed by the executive committee.

ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP

Section A. Schools within the Alamo District

The regular activities of this district shall be carried on by the active membership from the following schools: Burbank FFA, East Central FFA, Floresville FFA, Highlands FFA, Jefferson FFA, Judson FFA, La Vernia FFA, James Madison FFA, Poth FFA, Sandra Day O'Connor FFA, Somerset FFA, South San Antonio FFA, Southside FFA, Southwest FFA and Stockdale FFA.

Section B Active Membership

An active member in good standing may vote on all business brought before the district through their chapter's voting delegate. An active member shall be considered in good standing when:

1. While in school, be enrolled in at least one agricultural 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 chapter, district, area, state and national dues by the date determined by each organization.
4. Display conduct consistent with the ideals and purposes of the National FFA Organization.

Section C. Names of applicants for membership shall be filed with the Alamo District Treasurer each year by the chapters within the Alamo District by the designated date in order to be in good standing. All chapters not in good standing will have letters filed with the area, state and national association by the Executive Board.

Section D.

Each Chapter will have voting rights through a voting delegate system as established by the Texas FFA and National Organization, provided they are in good standing with the Alamo District. Each local chapter shall be entitled to send one delegate from its active members to serve on the voting delegation at the district meetings, camps, banquets, and checks; plus one additional delegate for every 50 members (or any fraction thereof, above the 50 members. Chapter will not be allowed to participate in district activities if they have not paid their dues for their membership and have not submitted their membership roster to the Alamo District (teacher) Treasurer by the designated time.

ARTICLE IV - EMBLEMS

Section A. The emblem of the National FFA Organization shall be the emblem for the district.

Section B. Emblems used by the members shall be designated by the National FFA Organization.

ARTICLE V - Degrees and Privileges of Active Membership

Section A. There shall be five degrees of active membership based on individual achievement. These degrees are: (1) Discovery FFA Degree, (2) Greenhand FFA Degree, (3) Chapter FFA Degree, (4) State FFA Degree and (5) American FFA Degree. All Discovery FFA members are entitled to wear the regulation bronze and blue emblem pin. 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 are entitled to wear the regulation gold emblem key.

Section B. Junior FFA, Alumni, Collegiate and Honorary Members do not have the same privileges as active members (i.e. No voting or speaking privileges) and do not count in their membership count for voting delegation.

ARTICLE VI – State, Area, District Officers

Section A. The offices of the Alamo District FFA shall be: president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, reporter and sentinel. The teacher(s) of agricultural education from the school in the Alamo District FFA officers shall be the FFA advisor(s). The advisor(s) from the school from which the district president is a member shall be the lead advisor of the student organization. District officers shall be elected annually by the members present at the spring meeting of the district that is designated for such business.

Section B. The district officers shall be elected by the district using a simple majority vote of the delegation; when there are more than three candidates for office, each school will cast 2 votes, per delegate (for two different candidates on a single ballot). Delegates are required to sign their school's name on the back of the ballot for verification. Any school not following this protocol will lose their 'casted votes' (i.e. if they vote twice in one round for their own candidate/delegate or do not sign their ballot – the votes will not count). The following Campaign Guidelines will be used in the district election process:

Candidates will draw for a random candidate number and presentation order.

1. All Candidates for district office will follow an election procedure that includes: a test, an interview and vote. All candidates for district office will report for a designated testing and interview day (as designated by the executive committee). This day will be a separate day from the voting and district election day.
2. The election process will include
 - Phase 1: A test prepared by a source outside the district (i.e. Wieghat Graphics), and an interview of a panel of three from outside the Alamo District (ex: three ag teachers from neighboring district). The top two candidates from this phase will go to the delegation for a vote (Phase 2).
 - Phase 2: The top vote getter will be president and the other candidate will be vice-president. The remaining candidates will then be ranked by the delegation for office according to majority vote. The order will be: (Secretary, Treasurer, Reporter and Sentinel). If all officer positions are not filled with candidates, then a separate election will be held the day of the election to fill the remaining positions from those candidates who completed Phase 1 but did not advance from their Chapter.
3. Candidates from the same chapter (Maximum 2) will be separated with the results of Phase 1. See information below.
4. Alamo District Officers will include: president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, reporter and sentinel.

5. On election day all candidates will be given 2 minutes to present to the delegation a prepared campaign speech. Once a candidate has exceeded his/her time – the district advisor will call time. No other speeches will be given by candidates.
6. Each candidate may be asked 1 question (but not required), as established by an election committee. The Alamo District Advisor's Executive Committee will establish the election committee.
7. Alamo District FFA will purchase a FFA jacket and pin for these officers and pay the Area VII Camp Fee for the district officers to attend the camp.
8. All new officers are expected to attend all District FFA functions including, but not limited to: Area VII Camp, Alamo District FFA LDE Contest, Alamo District Banquet Alamo District Meetings, and other activities established by the Alamo District Advisors' Executive Committee.
9. Alamo District Officers are expected to provide meaningful programs/activities for the Alamo District FFA under the direction of the Alamo District FFA Advisor and the Alamo District Advisors' Executive Committee.
10. Budget request for activities must be made in writing to the Alamo District Advisors' Executive Committee 3 weeks prior to the event. The Alamo District Advisors' Executive Committee may, or may approve the request based on available funds and/or district support.
11. No campaign materials will be allowed for election. Members shall not contact chapters or their members prior to Election Day for the purpose of securing their vote. State Guidelines will be enforced.
12. A District Officer Contract must have completed, signed, and filled with the Alamo District Advisor's Secretary prior to the election.

Section C. Limitations on Alamo District Officer Candidates: Only one member per FFA Chapter may hold office at the district level, during the same year (except in situation B).

Situation A:

Two members per FFA Chapter may run for district office during the same school year. Candidates from the same chapter will:

1. Complete Phase 1 (test and interview) of the election process with the other district candidates.
2. The highest ranking officer candidate from the chapter will advance to Phase 2 (voting).
3. The lower ranking officer candidate from the chapter will have the opportunity to fill an empty officer position (If needed) as outlined below.

Situation B:

Two members per FFA Chapter may hold office at the district level providing the following:

1. That there are not enough candidates from the district chapters present during the election process to fill the established slate of officers.
2. That the second candidate from a chapter must have completed phase one of the district officer election process.
3. Once each school within the election process has obtained a district office, then the second candidates may be elected.

4. All candidates have properly followed all election procedures and have filled the correct contracts with the Alamo District Advisor's Secretary.

Section D. District Officers Not Fulfilling their Duties

All Alamo District Officers not attending those activities outlined in Article VI, Section B, #7 will be removed from office, unless otherwise approved by the Alamo District Executive Committee. Those Alamo District Officers with conflicts may request to miss a district activity. This request should be done in writing with the Alamo District Advisor's President prior to the scheduled event. Since the activities of Area VII Camp, Alamo District Leadership Workshop, and Alamo District Check/Banquet are clearly a function of the officer's position, little consideration for missing these events will be given. If an officer is removed from office, the remaining officers will be moved up in office and the Alamo Executive Committee will determine what shall be done with the open district office. Furthermore all expenses incurred by the Alamo District on the behalf of that officer may be billed to that officer's school for repayment (ie. Camp, Jacket, Pin) by the Alamo District Treasurer.

Section E. The District Talent and other elected positions shall be elected under the guidelines established by the Alamo District Advisor's Executive Committee. When possible the area and state guidelines should be considered for the election process.

Section F. Area, State and National Candidates will follow state guidelines.

ARTICLE VII - Dues

Section A. District dues in the Alamo District shall be fixed annually by a majority vote of the Advisors from the chapters in the Alamo District.

Section B. Full local, area, 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, district, area, state and national FFA dues.

ARTICLE VIII - Amendments

Section A. This constitution may be amended or changed at any regular district meeting by a two-thirds vote of the official voting delegate present providing it is not in conflict with the state association constitution or that of the National FFA Organization.

Section B. Bylaws may be adapted to fit the needs of the district at any regular district meeting by a two-thirds vote of the active members present providing such bylaws do not conflict in any way with the constitution and bylaws of either the area, state or the national organization.