

Golden Valley FFA Chapter Constitution

*Revised September 2020

Article I Name and Purpose

Section A _____ The name of this organization shall be the “Golden Valley Chapter Future Farmers of America” and the letters, “FFA” may be used to designate the chapter, its activities, or members thereof.

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

1. To develop competent and aggressive agricultural leadership.
2. To create and nurture a love of agriculture life.
3. To strengthen the confidence of students of vocational agriculture in themselves and their work.
4. To create more interest in the intelligent choice of agricultural occupations.
5. To encourage members in the development of individual occupational experience programs and establishment in agricultural careers.
6. To encourage members to improve the home and its surroundings.
7. To participate in worthy undertakings for the improvement of the industry of agriculture.
8. To develop character, train for useful citizenship and foster patriotism.
9. To participate in cooperative effort.
10. To encourage and practice thrift.
11. To encourage improvement in scholarship.
12. To provide and encourage the development of organized recreational activities.
13. To improve agricultural conditions and practices in and about Merced County.
14. To develop farming or preparing for leadership, cooperative attitudes and rural responsibilities in an individual preparing to enter into an agricultural occupation.

Article II Organization

Section A _____ The Golden Valley Chapter of FFA is a chartered local entity of the Merced-Mariposa Section of the California Association of the National FFA Organization.

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

Article III Membership

Section A _____ Membership is limited to students enrolled in Agriculture Education at Golden Valley High School, Merced, CA and shall be of three kinds: (1) Active; (2) Alumni; (3) Honorary, as defined by the National FFA Constitution.

1. Alumni members are limited to students that were active during the 12th grade year and graduated from High School.
2. Prospective members shall become active members only when their dues have been paid to the state FFA.

3. No student may participate in any FFA activities unless they are members in good standing.

Section B **The regular work in this chapter shall be carried on by active members.**

Section C **Honorary membership in this chapter shall be limited to the Honorary Chapter FFA Degree.**

Section D **Active members in good standings may vote on all business brought before the chapter. An active member shall be considered in good standing when:**

- 1. They attend local chapter meetings with reasonable regularity.**
- 2. They show an interest in and take part in the affairs of the chapter.**
- 3. Are properly affiliated with the state and national FFA organization.**
- 4. Maintain a 2.0 G.P.A. with no D's or F's in an Ag. class.**
- 5. The advisor shall have the authority to exempt members from the required enrollment if students are unable to enroll due to circumstances beyond their control.**
- 6. All members must adhere to the National FFA Code of Ethics or be subject to one year suspension from the Golden Valley FFA.**

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

Section F **The Golden Valley FFA is a 100% Affiliation chapter with every student becoming a member of the FFA when they enroll in an Agriculture Education Class.**

Section G **No student/member may participate in any FFA activity unless they are in good standing.**

Section H **The FFA advisors at their own discretion have the right to dismiss any member from the Golden Valley FFA Chapter organization at any time.**

Section I **All award recipients must attend the Chapter Awards Banquet to receive their awards.**

Section J **All members exhibiting at fairs and shows must attend the fair awards ceremony in official FFA uniform from the waist up.**

Section K **High School members exhibiting at fairs and shows must attend 4 chapter meetings and participate in 2 fundraisers during that school year to be eligible to show.**

Article IV Emblems

Section A **The emblem of the FFA shall be the emblem for the chapter,**

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

Article V Membership Degrees and Privileges

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

All “Greenhands” are entitled to wear the regulation bronze emblem pin. All members holding the Degree of Chapter FFA are entitled to wear the 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 **Greenhand FFA Degree. Minimum qualifications for election: (Refer to State Constitution for a complete list of degree requirements.)**
1. Be regularly enrolled in a class in vocational education course for an agricultural occupation and have satisfactory and acceptable plans for a program of supervised farming, and/or other agricultural occupational experiences.
2. Learn and explain the FFA Creed, Motto and Salute.
3. Describe the FFA emblem colors and symbols.
4. Explain the proper use of the FFA jacket.
5. Have satisfactory knowledge of the history of the organization.
6. Know the duties and responsibilities of the FFA members.
7. Personally own or have access to the Official FFA Manual.
8. Submit written application for the Degree for Chapter records.

Section C **Chapter FFA Degree. Minimum qualifications for election: (Refer to State Constitution for a complete list of degree requirements.)**
1. Must have the Degree of Greenhand and have a record of satisfactory participation in the activities of the local chapter.
2. Must have satisfactorily completed at least one year of instruction in vocational agriculture, have in operation and approved supervised farming and/or agricultural occupational experience program and be regularly enrolled in a vocational agriculture class.
3. Be familiar with the purposes and programs of activities of the state association and national organization.
4. Be familiar with the provisions of the constitution of the local chapter.
5. Be familiar with parliamentary procedure.
6. Be able to lead a group discussion for fifteen minutes.
7. Must have earned by his/her own efforts from his/her supervised farming and/or other agricultural occupations program and deposited in a bank or otherwise productively invested at least \$150.00 or worked 100 hours on his/her SAE in excess of scheduled class time.

Section D **State FFA Degree: Minimum qualifications for election:**
1. Qualifications for the State FFA Degree are those set forth in the Constitution of the State Association.

Section E American FFA Degree. Minimum qualifications for election:

1. Qualifications for the American FFA Degree are those set forth in the Constitution of the National FFA Organization.

Section F Special Committees shall review the qualifications of members and make recommendations to the chapter concerning degree advancement.

Article VI Officers

Section A The chapter officers of the chapter shall be President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Reporter, Sentinel, and Historian. The local Advisor shall be the teacher of vocational agriculture in the school where the chapter is located. Officers shall perform the usual duties of their respective officers.

Section B Officers shall be elected annually by a majority vote of the active members present at a regular meeting. All elected chapter officers shall hold offices for one year after elections or until successors are elected or appointed.

Section C The officers of the chapter together with the chairmen in charge of the major sections of the annual program of activities shall constitute the Chapter Executive Committee. The Executive Committee shall have full power to act as necessary for the chapter in accordance with actions taken at chapter meetings and various regulations or bylaws adopted from time to time.

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

Section E Must hold a Greenhand degree, or higher, are eligible to hold chapter office.

Section F President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Reporter, Sentinel, and Historian shall be elected by majority vote of the active members. The advisors will be the vocational agriculture instructors.

Section G All chapter officer candidates will be appointed by the nominating committee to compromise an official ballot. Therefore, the nominating committee shall nominate candidates for chapter office.

Section H The nominating committee shall be composed of the 12th grade chapter officers and after reviewing the officer applications for chapter office: at least two advisors will slate the top 12 candidates on the ballot. The top 7 candidates with votes will be assigned officer positions.

Section I All chapter officers must have their SAE project in the fair.

Section J All officer vacancies, during the term of office, shall be filled by a majority vote of the chapter officers with the exception of the president whose vacancy shall be filled by the Vice President. The President shall nominate candidates for the committee's consideration.

Section K Any officer may be impeached pursuant to Article V

- Article L** All officers must be enrolled in the Agriculture Leadership Class during their term of officer.
- Article M** The time for the election shall be set by the executive committee and the advisors.
- Section N** Students may become elected officers no more than two terms (two years) during their high school career.
- Section O** All FFA chapter officers who fall below a 2.5 grade point average in their Agriculture class(es), or become academically ineligible, will be put on probation for nine week period. If by the end of the nine week period, the grade point average is not improved to a 2.5 or above, they will be replaced by the manner described in Article IX.

Article VII Officers

- Section A** The duties and responsibilities of chapter officers shall be:
1. Attend all executive committee meetings as outlined in the calendar of activities or called by the President.
 2. Attend sectional and regional FFA Officers training.
 3. Attend chapter officer training.
 4. Cooperate with advisors on all activities.
 5. Be able to lead by example. Act and perform in a manner which is becoming of an FFA chapter officer at ALL times.
 6. Must maintain grade eligibility as outlined in Article VI, Section N a 2.5 GPA
 7. Be willing to memorize their parts as prescribed in the Official FFA manual for all official ceremonies.
 8. Have a genuine interest in being part of a leadership TEAM.
 9. Be familiar with the Chapter Constitution and Bylaws.
 10. Be willing to accept responsibility.
 11. Be familiar with Parliamentary Procedure.
- Section B** The duties and responsibilities of the President shall be:
1. Preside over and conduct meetings according to Robert's Rules of Order.
 2. Call special meetings and notify officers of all special meetings.
 3. Keep members on the subject and within time limits.
 4. Appoint committees and serve as a non-voting member of them.
 5. Call other officers to the chair as necessary or desirable.
 6. Represent the chapter and speak on occasions in official FFA uniform.
 7. Coordinate chapter efforts by keeping in close touch with the other officers, members and the advisors.
 8. Follow up chapter activities and check on progress being made.
 9. Keep chapter activities moving in a satisfactory manner.
 10. Attend weekly Ag. Staff meetings as necessary.
 11. Prepare agendas for executive and chapter meetings.

- Section C** **The duties and responsibilities of the Vice President shall be:**
- 1. Assist the president.**
 - 2. Preside at meetings in the absence of the President.**
 - 3. Be prepared to assume duties and responsibilities of the president.**
 - 4. Assist with the Ag. Boosters**
 - 5. Record the chapter's activities and member participation. (AKA POA Points)**
 - 6. Serve as chairman of the FFA Chapter Fundraiser.**

- Section D** **The duties and responsibilities of the Secretary shall be:**
- 1. Prepare and read the minutes of meetings.**
 - 2. Have available for the president the list of business for each meeting.**
 - 3. Attend to official reports.**
 - 4. Prepare official reports.**
 - 5. Keep permanent records of the chapter filing system.**
 - 6. Cooperate with the treasurer in keeping an accurate membership roll and issue AET membership cards.**
 - 7. Read communications at meetings.**
 - 8. Have on hand for each meeting the following:**
 - a. Secretary's book and minutes of previous meeting.**
 - b. Lists of committees and committee reports**

- Section E** **The duties and responsibilities of the Reporter shall be:**
- 1. Gather and classify chapter news.**
 - 2. Prepare news notes and articles for publication or broadcast.**
 - 3. Send news to regional, state and national reporters.**
 - 4. Arrange for FFA participation in local radio and/or TV programs.**
 - 5. Prepare an FFA newsletter.**
 - 6. Keep, maintain and prepare the scrapbook for state competition**

- Section F** **The duties and responsibilities of the treasurer shall be:**
- 1. Receive and act as custodian of chapter funds.**
 - 2. Assist in preparing an annual budget of estimated receipts and expenditures.**
 - 3. Keep the financial records of the chapter.**
 - 4. Devise appropriate ways and means of financing.**
 - 5. Pay out chapter funds by authorizing the student body to issue checks.**
 - 6. Prepare financial statements and reports.**
 - 7. Encourage systematic saving-individual and chapter thrift.**
 - 8. Build up the chapter's financial standings.**
 - 9. Required to present a treasurer's report at each executive committee.**
 - 10. Required to prepare a written report monthly.**

- Section H** **The duties and responsibilities of the Sentinel shall be:**
- 1. Setting up the meeting room, caring and returning to storage the chapter paraphernalia and equipment.**
 - 2. Attend the door during meetings and welcome visitors.**
 - 3. See that the meeting room is kept comfortable.**
 - 4. Take charge of candidates for degree ceremonies.**
 - 5. Assist with entertainment features and refreshments.**
 - 6. Provide spiritual inspiration for the chapter and FFA activities.**
 - 7. Send chapter members birthday cards.**
 - 8. Prepare a contact list.**

Section I **The duties and Responsibilities of the Historian shall be:**

- 1. Attend meeting and chapter activities to record events with pictures/photos.**
- 2. Prepare chapter news articles with the Reporter.**
- 3. Create a Scrapbook to record chapter History.**
- 4. Appoint a PR Committee to assist in collection of chapter memories.**
- 5. Keep Social media pages up to date with the assistance of Advisors.**

Article VIII Meetings

Section A **Regular chapter meetings shall be held once a month during the school year during the remaining months of the year at such time and place designated by the chapter Executive Committee. Special meetings may be called at any time. The chapter Executive meeting may reserve the right to change the meeting dates upon request of Advisors.**

Section B **Standard meeting equipment shall be used at each meeting. All regular meetings shall open and close with the official ceremony. Parliamentary procedure shall be used in transacting all business at each meeting.**

Section C **Delegates, as specified by the State Constitution, shall be elected (or appointed by Advisors) annually from the active membership to represent the chapter at the State Leadership Conference. Other delegates may be named as necessary in order to have proper representation at various other FFA meetings within the State.**

Section D **A majority of the active members listed on the secretary's membership roll shall constitute a quorum, and a quorum must be present at any meeting at which business is transacted or a vote taken committing the chapter to any proposal or action.**

Section E **Chapter members attending chapter meetings may not be involved in disorderly infractions to receive meeting credit. Warning one, verbal by an advisor or an officer, warning two dismissals from the meeting and name will be taken from roll.**

Article IX Impeachment Process

_____Section A **Immediate Impeachment**

- 1. The chapter advisors may at any time at their own discretion remove an officer who has repeatedly disregarded his/her duties by not fulfilling them to his/her best ability or who doesn't adhere to the National FFA Code of Ethics or makes any infractions against Golden Valley School Rules or civic law.**

Section B **Steps for impeaching a chapter officer**

Step 1: Any FFA chapter officer not fulfilling the duties of the office as described by this constitution will be required to meet with fellow officers and two advisors to discuss a plan for improvement.

Step 2: A written plan for improvement will be drawn up by the advisor based upon the conversation of the meeting in Step 1 and will be signed by the FFA

President and officer in question. If the FFA President is the officer in question then the Vice-President will sign.

Step 3: If the officer in question still does not fulfill his duties, then 2/3 vote of the executive committee meeting can impeach that officer from office immediately.

Article X Dues

- Section A** Dues shall be paid by the local chapter for local, state and national dues by November 1st to be in good standing, as long as Ag. Incentive Grant funds are available---Dues shall be paid by this source.
- Section B** No members shall be considered as active and in good standing unless he/she pays full local, state and national FFA dues.
- Section C** The amount of dues shall be set by a majority vote of the FFA Executive Committee membership.
- Section D** Memberships must comply with rules and guidelines set forth by the chapter committee on fairs and shows.

Article XI Eligibility to Participate at Fairs and Judging Contests

- Section A** Eligibility of members exhibiting at fairs and shows will be based on the Advisors discretion.
- Section B** Members must maintain a 2.0 G.P.A. with a grade no lower than a C in an Ag. class to be eligible to exhibit at fairs and judging events.
- Section C** Members must comply with rules and guidelines set forth by the Chapter Committee on fairs and shows.
- Section D** In the event that a student becomes academically ineligible to participate at a fair at which they planned to exhibit livestock, he/she will be placed on academic probation by the Agriculture Department. If that student becomes ineligible again, he/she will lose his/her privilege to exhibit at all fairs with the Golden Valley FFA Chapter for the next semester.

Article XII Amendment

- Section A** This constitution may be amended or changed at any regular meeting by a two-thirds vote of the active members present providing it is not conflict with the CA State Association FFA Constitution of that of the National FFA Organization.
- Section B** To become effective, an amendment must be posted for two weeks previous to the vote of the active members.

Article XIII Ratification of Constitution

Section A **The constitution shall become effective when passed by a 2/3 vote of the members voting.**

Article XIII Length of Officer Term – COVID Adjustment

Section A **Due to the COVID-19, students will be granted an additional year of serving as a Chapter Officer which will not exceed 3 years in Chapter FFA Office. (Article 6, Section N) *This is a temporary clause due to COVID-19 pandemic and will be removed at the conclusion of the 2020-2021 school year. ***