

# The Constitution of the Florida 4-H Council

## Preamble

We, the 4-H members of Florida, in order to provide additional opportunities for personal development, leadership, citizenship, and growth, and to function as a tool of the 4-H program, do hereby establish this Constitution for the 4-H Council.

## ARTICLE I

### Name, Scope, Emblem, and Colors

- Section 1. Name and Scope: The name of this organization shall be the Florida 4-H Council, an assembly of elected and appointed representatives who meet, discuss, plan, and help expedite the 4-H Program in the interest of members.
- Section 2. Emblem: The four-leaf clover with the letter "H" in each of the leaflets representing equal training of the Head, Heart, Hands, and Health and signifying Good Luck and Achievement shall be the official emblem of the Florida 4-H Council.
- Section 3. Colors: The 4-H Colors are green and white. The green represents nature's most common color and is emblematic of youth, life, and growth. The white background symbolizes purity.

## ARTICLE II

### Objectives

To provide additional opportunities for personal development and to promote the 4-H Program throughout Florida, the objectives of this Council shall be to:

- Section 1. Serve as means of expression through responsible representation for Florida 4-H Members.
- Section 2. Provide understanding and experience in applying the principles of representative government.
- Section 3. Provide effective means of communication within all phases of the 4-H council program.
- Section 4. Serve as a means for improving and projecting a positive image of 4-H.

- Section 5. Serve as an example of member involvement in planning and carrying out programs.
- Section 6. To provide visible leadership models for 4-H members.
- Section 7. To provide visible leadership models for 4-H members.
- Section 8. To fulfill an advisory role in planning of District and State events and activities and to aid in the implementation of such programs, where applicable.

### **ARTICLE III**

#### **Meeting, Quorum, and Suffrage**

- Section 1. "The University of Florida is an Equal Opportunity Institution."
- Section 2. Special meetings of the Council may be called by the President with the approval of the State Advisor.
- Section 3. Two-thirds of the officially seated delegates or alternates shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at any meeting of the Council provided that at least one-half of the counties with organized 4-H programs are represented.
- Section 4. Each county shall be represented by two officially seated voting delegates who may vote on each proceeding of the Council. In a voting delegate's absence, his/her county's alternate will assume the voting privileges.
- Section 5. State council advisor(s) shall serve in an advisory capacity only at meetings of the State Council. State council advisor(s) shall not have voting privileges at any assemblies of the State Council and/or its officers.

### **ARTICLE IV**

#### **Officers: Procedure of Selections**

- Section 1. Officer Positions.
- a. The elected officers of the Council shall be: a President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Reporter.
  - b. The appointed officers of the Council shall be: a Sergeant-at-Arms, Historian, and Parliamentarian.

Section 2. Elected Officers.

- a. The election of officers shall be by secret ballot vote of each delegate in the Council assembled.
- b. To be elected to an office, a candidate must receive a majority of the votes cast.
- c. The elected officers shall continue to fulfill those duties, statewide in nature, as directed in this Constitution, for one year or until such time as their successors are designated.
- d. If the office of the President is permanently vacated, the Vice-President shall become the President.
- e. If any elected office other than the Presidency is vacated, a committee composed of the remaining elected officers and the state council advisor(s), with the President serving as Chairperson, shall be given the option to appoint a State Executive Board Member to fill the vacated position.
- f. Candidates may run for only one elected office.

Section 3. Appointed Officers.

- a. The appointment of officers shall be by a committee composed of the elected officers and the state council advisor(s), with the President serving as Chairperson.
- b. The Appointed Officers shall continue to fulfill those duties, statewide in nature, as directed under this Constitution, for one year or until such time as their successors are designated by the President.
- c. There shall be no unreasonable delay in the naming of Appointed Officers.
- d. If any appointed office is vacated, a committee composed of the remaining officers with the President serving as Chairperson, shall have the option to appoint a State Executive Board Member to fill that vacated position.

Section 4. The executive officers shall be the elected and the appointed officers of the Council.

## **ARTICLE V**

### **Judicial Procedures**

- Section 1. Disciplinary actions shall be taken against any individual not adhering to the established regulations, or exhibiting inappropriate behavior while functioning as a representative of the Florida 4-H Council.
- Section 2. Should a State 4-H Council member or Executive Board member exhibit inappropriate behavior while attending a state 4-H event, he/she may be referred to a disciplinary committee.
- Section 3. Any decision made by this committee may be appealed to the Dean of 4-H within thirty days of notification of the committee's decision.
- Section 4. Any State 4-H Council Executive Officer whose behavior while functioning as a State Council Representative causes him or her to be brought before the Disciplinary Committee, may be removed from office. This decision is left to the president and state council advisor.

## **ARTICLE VI**

### **District Council and Officers**

- Section 1. A Council, with representatives from each county and the Seminole Tribe having an organized 4-H program, shall be formed in each of the 4-H Districts in Florida to assist the County 4-H Programs through their County Councils, provide organization and leadership for district activities and events, and to facilitate the distribution of material and information from the Florida 4-H Council.
- Section 2. Each District shall elect or appoint four members to the State Executive Board before 4-H University of the preceding 4-H program year. They must serve for the following respective 4-H program year on the State Executive Board.
- Section 3. Each District Council may choose an alternate to serve in the absence of any District Representatives.
- Section 4. District Officers, the four representatives, shall assume office and all powers and responsibilities thereunto appertaining immediately upon the election of the State 4-H Council Officers, at which time those District Officers elected for service the previous year shall terminate their tenure

of office. District Officers shall serve for one year or until their successors are designated.

Section 5. Those elected as State 4-H Executive Officers shall not be considered as representatives to the State Executive Board.

Section 6. Each District Council may require its officers to perform such duties as are found necessary and appropriate, provided that such duties do not conflict with those required by this Constitution.

## **ARTICLE VII**

### **Amendments**

Section 1. A proposed amendment becomes Constitutional upon vote of two-thirds majority of the votes cast by the officially seated voting delegates.

Section 2. Before action can be taken on a proposed amendment to the Constitution, the proposed amendment must have been read at the previous Council meeting and/or distributed in writing to council delegates at least two weeks prior to the next council meeting and will have been presented to the Chairperson of the Constitution and 4-H Day at the Capitol Committee before the proposed amendment's first reading and/or distribution.

Section 3. A proposed amendment to the Bylaws of the Constitution becomes a bylaw upon a majority of the votes cast by the officially seated voting delegates.

Section 4. Before action can be taken on a proposed amendment to the Bylaws of the Constitution, the proposed amendment must have been read at the previous Council meeting and/or distributed in writing to council delegates at least two weeks prior to the next council meeting and will have been presented to the Chairperson of the Constitution and 4-H Day at the Capitol Committee before the proposed amendment's first reading and/or distribution.