

# **BUENA PARK FFA CHAPTER CONSTITUTION**

**August 27, 2017**

## **ARTICLE I**

### **Name and Purpose**

#### **Section A.**

The Name of the organization shall be the “Buena Park Chapter of the Future Farmer of America” (Hereinafter referred to as FFA)

#### **Section B.**

The FFA mission is to develop agricultural leadership, personal growth and career success in its members. The specific purpose for which this organization was formed are as follows:

- Develop competent and assertive agriculture leadership.
- Increase awareness of the global and technological importance of agriculture and contribution to our well-being
- Strengthen the confidence of the agriculture students in themselves and their work.
- Promote the intelligent choice and establishment of an agriculture career
- Encourage achievement in supervised agricultural experience programs
- Encourage wise management of economic, environmental and human resource of the community
- Develop interpersonal skills in teamwork, communications, human relations and social interaction
- Build character and promote useful citizenship, volunteerism, and patriotism.
- Promote cooperative attitudes among all people
- Promote healthy lifestyles
- Encourage excellence in scholarship
- Provide organized recreational activities for agriculture students.

## **Article II**

### **Organization**

#### **Section A.**

The Buena Park FFA Chapter is a chartered local entity of the Orange Section of the Southern Region of the California Association of the National FFA Organization, made up of local members.

#### **Section B.**

The advisor(s) of this organization must be qualified vocational agriculture teachers currently teaching vocational agriculture at Buena Park High School.

#### **Section C.**

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

#### **Section D.**

The chapter executive committee shall have full authority and responsibility to carryout the chapter activities of the organization as defined by the chapter Constitution & Bylaws and Program of Work.

## **Article III Membership**

#### **Section A.**

Membership in the chapter shall be of four kinds: (1) Active; (2) Collegiate; (3) Alumni; (4) Honorary, as defined by the National FFA Constitution.

#### **Section B.**

The Active Members shall carry on the regular work of this chapter. Active membership in good standing may vote on all business brought before the chapter. An active member shall be considered in good standing when:

- They attend local chapter meetings with reasonable regularity.
- They show an interest in, and partake in the affairs of the chapter.

#### **Section C.**

Honorary membership in this chapter shall be limited to Honorary Chapter FFA Degree. The chapter executive committee will determine The Honorary member candidates. The membership in attendance at the meeting shall select a candidate for honorary membership.

#### **Section D.**

The names of the applicants for active membership shall be filed annually with the National Association no later than October 15 of that school year.

## **Article IV Emblems, Colors, and Motto**

#### **Section A.**

The Emblem of the National FFA shall be the emblem of the chapter. The National FFA Emblem, consisting of the five symbols, is the representative of the history, goals and the future of the organization. As a whole, the emblem covers the broad spectrum of FFA and agriculture. Each element within the emblem has unique significance. They are the cross section of the ear of corn, the rising sun, the plow, the eagle, the owl, and the words Agriculture Education and FFA.

#### **Section B.**

As the blue fields of our nation's flag and the golden fields of ripened corn unify our country, the FFA colors of National Blue and Corn Gold provide unity to the organization. All FFA functions and paraphernalia should proudly display the colors.

#### **Section C.**

The FFA Motto provides its members twelve short words to live by as they experience the opportunities in the organization:

*Learning to Do  
Doing to Learn  
Earning to Live  
Living to Serve*

# **Article V**

## **Membership Degrees and Privileges**

### **Section A.**

There shall be four degrees of active membership in the chapter. These are:

(1) Greenhand FFA Degree; (2) Chapter FFA Degree; (3) State FFA Degree;  
(4) National FFA Degree.

- All Greenhands are entitled to wear the regulation bronze emblem pin.
- All Chapter FFA Degree holders are entitled to wear the regulation silver emblem pin.
- All State FFA Degree holders are entitled to wear the regulation gold emblem pin.
- All American FFA Degree holders are entitled to wear the regulation gold emblem key.

### **Section B.**

All qualifications for the above degrees can be found in the Official FFA Manual, published by the National Association of FFA.

# **Article VI**

## **Officers**

### **Section A.**

The offices of this organization shall be: Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary of the following committees:

Meetings & Service  
Publicity  
SAE & CDE

### **Section B.**

Section Officer– This is not a chapter office. Section Officers are encouraged to attend all monthly chapter officer executive meetings if they are not part of the committees mentioned above. A person can be a section officer and a chapter officer at the same time, but it is not required.

### **Section C.**

The Nomination Committee may enact other offices, as they deem appropriate at the time of candidate interviews.

### **Section D.**

The term of office will be for one year. A member may not hold the same office for more than two years.

### **Section E.**

Officers shall be elected annually by a majority vote of the membership. Elections shall be held prior to the annual awards banquet.

### **Section F.**

Any active member meeting the following minimum guidelines may submit an application for the chapter office. The minimum qualifications are:

- Must be in good standing with the FFA
- Must maintain a 2.5 grade point average.
- Must have earned the Greenhand FFA Degree.
- Must go through the application and interview process.

### **Section G**

Members must complete and return application to the Nomination Committee prior to the posted deadline. Applicants will interview with the Nomination Committee. The Nomination Committee will submit a ballot, consisting of no more than two candidates for each office, for consideration in the May election. Nomination Committee decisions are final and no nominations will be accepted from the floor. Members may campaign for one week prior to elections.

### **Section H**

The Chapter FFA Advisor shall appoint the Nominations Committee from the membership each year. The advisor or other adult designee shall serve as a voting member of the nomination committee.

### **Section I.**

The vote shall be a secret ballot. Candidates shall be elected by the majority of the members voting.

### **Section J.**

Five strikes and you are out. Strikes can include, but are not limited to: meeting attendance, officer duties, behavior and academics.

1<sup>st</sup> strike – Warning (check for problem)

2<sup>nd</sup> strike - Inform parents of problem

3<sup>rd</sup> strike – Intervention Discussion between Advisor, Executive Committee and Officer

4<sup>th</sup> strike – Probation (No FFA activities until said problem is solved)

5<sup>th</sup> strike – removal from the team

### **Section K.**

If an officer is removed from the officer team, any time throughout the year the decision to fill or not fill the position is left up to the executive committee.

## **Article VII Meetings**

### **Section A.**

The Buena Park Chapter of FFA shall hold a minimum of ten meetings each year-the time and place to be determined by the Executive Committee.

### **Section B**

Parliamentary Procedure, in accordance with the latest of Robert's Rules of Order, shall be used in all meetings of this organization.

## **Article VIII**

# Standing Committees

## Section A

All people wanting to be committee executive members shall apply in March for the academic year. Standing committees include: FFA meetings & Banquets, Fundraising & Community Service, Publicity, SAE & CDE. Any member can join the committees as a participant September – May.

## Section B.

Duties of the committee shall be as follows:

- **See attached committee structure document**

## Article IX Executive Committee

### Section A

The leadership team and advisor(s) shall form an executive committee.

### Section B.

The advisors(s) shall be a voting member(s), and can over rule officer vote if necessary.

### Section C.

The duties of the executive committee shall be:

- Meet monthly to conduct chapter business and make sure committees are running effectively.
- Enforce the Constitution

### Section D.

The Chapter FFA Executive Committee will meet as necessary when called by the chapter advisor. All executive meetings must be approved and scheduled through the advisor.

## Article X Amendments

### Section A.

Amendments to the Buena Park FFA Constitution and the By-Laws may be submitted by any FFA member. All amendments must be submitted in writing to the chapter advisor on or before June 30 in order to be considered. After review of any proposed amendments by the executive committee, all amendments meriting consideration will be made available to chapter members by September 31.

### Section B

To amend the Constitution & By-Laws, a two-thirds vote must be obtained from active members present at the October official FFA meeting.

## Article XI

# **Fifth Year Plan**

## **Section A.**

**In order to participate in the fifth year plan all of the following standards must be met. If any of the following is not, then that student will be dropped from the organization program. The instructor may make exceptions.**

- Students must be in good standing with the chapter.**
- Students must have graduated from high school in a four-year period of time. Special Education student are exempt.**
- Students must be active throughout their fifth year.**
- Students must have a place to keep their animals outside the school farm. Exceptions can be made based on the space available on the farm.**
- If students have had a project warning they are not eligible for the fifth year.**

**Fifth year students are required to keep themselves informed on FFA activities and set up project visits with the agriculture instructor.**

1. Conduct monthly meetings and social activities that will increase student involvement and improve life skills.
  - a. Do an Ice Breaker at each meeting that will teach a life skill to FFA members.
  - b. Have a monthly activity to follow FFA meetings in order to increase participation at meetings. When groups need to be formed, we will use mixers instead of leaving students to determine their own groups.
  - c. Hold regular monthly meetings to encourage camaraderie and provide safe healthy alternatives for a night out.
  
2. Hold regular monthly socials to encourage camaraderie and provide safe healthy alternatives for a night out.
  
3. Host an Annual Banquet to recognize student accomplishments and thank community members/school staff for their support throughout the year.
  - a. Banquet will be held at the school farm.
  - b. Have the scrapbook available and do a slide show for members/parents/others to see activities throughout the year.
  - c. Present awards to deserving individuals.
4. Develop a Point Chart for FFA activities, giving more weight to activities that require a higher level of commitment.
  - a. 2nd Semester – Pizza Party for class with the highest number of FFA points.
  - b. Ice Cream Party for 2<sup>nd</sup> place
5. Host a Greenhand Degree initiation in December
  - a. 1<sup>st</sup> Day Ice Breaker activities

i. college – Watches FFA means to you.

ii. Check for green cards

  - b. Have Greenhands make their handprints/ signature
  - c. Award the Greenhand Degree Pin
  
6. Have 30 freshman attend the Greenhand Conference.
  - a. Make a sign for the classroom.
  
7. Have 5 participants each in the Made for Excellence and Advanced Leadership Academies.
8. Have 10 participants in the State FFA Leadership Conference.
  - a. Chapter pays for half the cost of 2 appointed delegates. All others are responsible for their own registration fees.
  - b. Make a sign for the classroom.
  - c. Show conference promotional video to class in February.
  
9. Have students participate in the Orange Section Speaking Contests.
  - a. Have a minimum number of participants in each contest.

i. Creed -5

ii. Job Interview – 5

iii. Extemporaneous Public Speaking – 2

iv. Prepared Public Speaking – 2

  - b. Have at least four individuals go on to the regional level.
  
10. Have competitive teams offered for students to participate in.
  - a. Ag Sales

- b. Ag Market Plan
  - c. Parliamentary Procedure
  - d. Nursery Landscape
  - e. Dairy Judging
  - f. Small Animal Judging
  - g. Other Team were there are 3 or more students who want to compete.
11. Recognize student accomplishments within individual SAE's.
    - a. Award at least 20 proficiency awards at Chapter Banquet
    - b. Have at least 10 students apply for a section proficiency award.
  - i. Have at least 6 section, 3 region winners, and 1 state finalists/ state winners.
    12. Recognize student academic accomplishments.
      - a. Award a scholarship pin to all individuals with a 3.0 or higher GPA for the School year sat the annual awards banquet and a plaque for student with highest GPA in each grade.
    13. Field trips to explore careers, regular guest speakers in uppers level ag courses.

## **Chapter Development**

1. Have all officers attend the SoCal and Orange Section Leadership Conferences
  - a. Chapter will pay for the registration fees.
  - b. Make it part of the officer contract. Make sure that officers are aware of this requirement up front.
2. Conduct an eighth grade recruitment program.
  - i. Include a Power Point presentation/slide show.
  - ii. Create a brochure to hand out to interested students. Make sure it includes a card that interested students can fill out lthe return immediately or by mail.
3. Promote National FFA Week
  - a. Work with the Orange County register to develop a newspaper Spread.
  - b. Put signs up around the school promoting National FFA Week.
    - a. fun facts posters around campus
    - b. Ag Awareness Day
    - c. Dress like a cowboy or cowgirl
    - c. Do something that creates visibility during National FFA Week.
4. Conduct a variety of Fundraisers in order to insure that our account remains in the black and that funds are available for future years.
  - a. Poinsettia Fundraiser
  - b. Snack Sales
  - c. Market Animal Raffle
  - d. Cow plop Bingo
5. Improve our appearance in the Yearbook.
  - a. Work with the editors and yearbook advisor.
  - b. Provide pictures to the yearbook staff.
  - c. Make sure a club picture is taken for the yearbook.
6. Develop a chapter Scrapbook
  - a. The officer team will assist the reporter in accomplishing this Task whenever she request help.

- b. The Reporter will establish a Committee
  - c. Have an Ag student on staff
7. Have a column in the coyote carter in order to improve our visibility on campus and in the Buena Park Community.
    - a. Work closely with the editors and advisor of the carter.
    - b. Make sure all student and chapter accomplishments as well as upcoming activities are in the article.
    - c. Get into Science News Letter
  8. Develop a Chapter MySpace and Website.
    - d. Include sections for FFA, SAE and Classroom activities. Make sure students, parents, and administrators are aware that this site exists.
    - e. Make sure the region is aware that we have a MySpace so that they can develop a link.
    - d. Include the newsletter.
  9. Develop a Orange County Buyer Brochure in order to increase a attendance at the Livestock Auction.
    - a. Develop an informational brochure to leave behind after the presentations.
  10. Improve the school farm appearance.
    - a. Host a minimum of 3 workdays throughout the school year in order to accomplish large projects and complete unfinished tasks.
    - b. Complete the Pond Construction and stock the pond.
    - c. Fix Irrigation System
  11. Conduct a Spring retreat for officers.
    - a. Evaluate goals and our ability to meet them thus far.
    - b. Evaluate individual officers.
    - c. Develop a plan for the remainder of the year.
  12. Host a Committee Chair Orientation and Training Meeting at the beginning of the year.
    - a. Colton will send out invitations and design a plan for training.
    - b. Possible Chairs:
      - i. Hospitality-
      - ii. Membership-
      - iii. Public Relations-
      - iv. Banquet-
      - v. Facilities-

## Community Development

1. Assist the needy within our community.
  - a. Thanksgiving canned food drive
  - b. Spring Clothing Drive
  - c. Preschool Day
2. Host a spring Festival for local Children. Provide a variety of Activities.
  - a. Game booths hosted by other campus clubs.
  - b. Puppet Show
  - c. Advertise in the Paper
  - d. Sell Snacks
  - e. Coloring Booths
  - f. Decorating Cookies
  - g. Craft Booths
  - h. Ag. Education Display & activities
3. Improve the Ag Literacy of our local community.
  - a. Develop the school Farm so that it serves as an Ag Literacy facility for the community, with sign and murals.
  - b. Use the Ag classroom materials to develop educational and fun workshops for the farm.
4. Community Dinners
  - a. once year