Shiner FFA Constitution and By-Laws

Article 1: Name and Purpose

Section A: The name of this organization shall be the Shiner FFA. Members are hereby referred to as Shiner FFA members.

Section B: The purpose of the Shiner FFA is as follows:

1. To encourage competent leadership skills.
2. To strengthen the confidence of young men and women.
3. To create an interest in agricultural careers and occupations.
4. To encourage members to develop agricultural programs.
5. To encourage members to improve their home environment.
6. To participate in activities for the improvement of agriculture.
7. To develop character, citizenship, leadership, and patriotism.
8. To participate in a cooperative effort.
9. To encourage and practice thrift.
10. To encourage scholarship attainments in academics.
11. To encourage recreational and cooperative activities.
12. To encourage students to engage in healthy competition.
13. To encourage students to strive to obtain their individual goals.

Article 2: Organization

Section A: The Shiner FFA Organization is a member of the Horizon District, Area XI, and the Texas FFA Association which is chartered by the National FFA Organization.

Section B: The Shiner FFA accepts in full, the provisions in the constitution and by-laws of the Texas FFA Association, as well as those of the National FFA Organization.

Section C: The Shiner FFA will be under the supervision of the current agriscience teacher(s) serving as the advisors of the Shiner FFA.

Article 3: Membership

Section A: Membership to the Shiner FFA is open to any student currently enrolled in an agriscience class, or has the intention of enrolling in an agriscience class the spring semester, or was in an agriscience course the previous year. If a student is a freshman, the student must be in an agriscience course their freshman year.

Section B: All members must comply with Shiner ISD Code of Conduct or consequences may result in removal from the organization.

Section C: Junior membership will be allowed only for the purpose of exhibiting animals under the Shiner FFA organization.

To be eligible to be a junior member of the Shiner FFA, the proposed member must:

* Be eligible for enrollment at Shiner ISD
* Be a child of a current Shiner FFA advisor or be a sibling of a current Shiner FFA member
* Pay junior FFA member dues

Students may join the junior FFA if their older sibling graduated that spring from Shiner High School and was a FFA member.

To retain membership in the junior FFA the member must maintain membership until reaching Shiner High School and join the Shiner FFA. Junior FFA members are not permitted to skip years of membership.

Article 4 Emblem

Section A: The emblem of the National FFA Organization shall be the emblem of the Shiner FFA.

Article 5: Meetings

Section A: Regular meetings will include fall and spring meetings and the Shiner FFA Banquet. The dates of meetings will be designated by the chapter officers and the agriscience teachers.

Section B: Standard meeting paraphernalia will be used at each meeting. Standard ceremonies and Jarrell Gray’s Parliamentary Procedures will be used.

Section C: The attendance of members at meetings will constitute a quorum. Transactions of business by vote will be standard procedure at these meetings with those members present constituting a quorum.

Article 6: Dues

Section A: Dues for membership in the Shiner FFA shall be set by the current officers. Membership shall be for a one year period from October 1 thru September 30 each year.

Section B: The by-laws may be adopted or changed to fit the needs of the Shiner FFA at any regular meeting by a two-thirds vote provided 30 days notice has been given. Such changes must not conflict with the Texas or National FFA organizations.

By-Laws

Article 1: Fiscal Year

Section A: Regular FFA membership and junior FFA membership year will be from October 1 to September 30 of the following year.

Article 2: Program of Activities

Section A: Shiner FFA Officers will develop a program of activities listing official district functions, to include fall and spring meetings, banquet, and other activities. Other functions that officers may decide on should also be included.

Article 3: Executive Committee

Section A: The Executive Committee will consist of the president and vice-president and the current Shiner agriscience teachers.

Section B: The Executive Committee will have full power to act as necessary for the chapter in accordance with actions taken at meetings and various regulations or by-laws adopted from time to time.

Article 4: Shiner FFA Officers

Section A: Shiner FFA officers will consist of the President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Reporter, Sentinel, and the possibility of a Historian and or 1st Vice at the discretion of the Shiner FFA Advisor(s). The current agriscience teachers will serve as Shiner FFA Chapter advisors.

Section B: Officers will be elected annually at a spring meeting. The election process can be found in the Shiner FFA Handbook.

Section C: Shiner FFA officers must have met the qualifications for the Chapter FFA Degree and must be enrolled in high school for the duration of their office along with the qualifications below.

1. Freshmen are not eligible for the office of President and Vice President. Other officers will be elected from the general membership. To be eligible for the office of President, the applicant must have previously been a Shiner FFA Officer.
2. Officer candidates must complete the application before being considered an applicant.
3. New officers will be required to assume their duties upon officer installation at the Shiner FFA Banquet.

Section D: Shiner FFA Officers will be issued strikes as deemed necessary by the current advisors. Strikes may be issued for failure to complete officer duties, failure to attend mandatory events, and failure to comply. Three strikes will result in removal from office at the discretion of the Executive Committee.

Article 5: Contests

Section A: Leadership Development Events and Career Development Events will be conducted in accordance to state and national rules.

Section B: The Career Development Events (CDEs) and Leadership Development Events (LDEs) will be selected from the official list on the Texas FFA website. The teams will be chosen based on the agriscience teacher’s discretion.

Section C: To be a participating member of the Shiner FFA, dues must be paid annually.

Article 6: Shiner FFA Property

Section A: Approximately two acres of land and facilities located on the West and Northwest side of campus are modified for the Shiner FFA.

The purpose of this property and facilities is to enhance student leadership and education and in the exhibiting of student projects; hands-on educational activities and recreational activities of the Shiner FFA or for use of other activities approved by the trustees.

All equipment deeded to the Shiner FFA is for use as discretion of the agriscience teachers permits.

Section B: This property will be under the supervision of the current agriscience teacher(s) employed by Shiner ISD.

Shiner FFA By-Laws

ARTICLE 1: Relationship to Constitution

The Bylaws shall be a part of the Constitution of the Shiner FFA Chapter.

ARTICLE 2: Location of Offices

The headquarters and principal office of the Shiner Chapter of FFA shall be at 510 County Road 348, Shiner, Texas.

ARTICLE 3: Procedures for Electing Officers

Section A: The chapter shall adopt rules related to the election of officers which shall include, but not be limited to, designation of elections committee, filing deadlines, application forms, testing procedures and election date.

Section B: Qualified members shall declare intent to be considered for chapter office by filing the required forms by the prescribed filing deadline pursuant to the rules adopted by the chapter.

Section C: Officers shall be selected by a combination of written application score (25%), written exam score, (25%), interview score (25 %), and a score derived from a secret ballot vote of the members present at regular or called special chapter meeting (25 %).

Section D: All written materials related to a chapter election shall be deposited and retained in a secure location for no less than 30 days following the announcement of election results.

Section E: Appeals or protests related to a chapter election shall be filed pursuant to the grievances procedures of the Shiner ISD.

ARTICLE 4: Duties of Officers

Section A: It shall be the duty of all officers to fulfill the responsibilities described in the officer contract adopted by the chapter and agreed to by each officer at the time of declaring candidacy for chapter office.

Section B: The president shall preside at all of the chapter’s meetings, shall sign all official documents or authorize execution of said documents, appoint student committees and serve as an ex-officio member of all student committees, coordinate all chapter operations, represent the chapter in official functions and perform other such duties as usually pertain to the office of president.

Section C: The vice president and 1st Vice shall perform the duties of the president in the event of the disability, death, resignation, removal or other inability of the president to perform such duties, develop the chapter’s program of activities, coordinate the operations of all student committees, serve as an ex-officio member of all student committees and perform such other duties and further duties as may be imposed upon him or her by the chapter.

Section D: The secretary shall make and keep correct records or minutes of proceedings of the chapter and executive committee, prepare and post meeting agendas, file reports, maintain member activity records, issue membership cards, update policy documents as directed and perform such other duties and further duties as may be imposed upon him or her by the chapter.

Section E: The treasurer shall have responsibility for accounting of all funds and property of the chapter. The treasurer shall provide direction and oversight to any and all who handle the monies of the chapter, assuring that the financial policies of the chapter and School District Name Independent School District are followed completely, shall present a proposed budget at a regularly scheduled or called special chapter meeting, present monthly financial reports at chapter meetings, chair the budget and finance committee and perform such other duties and further duties as may be imposed upon him or her by the chapter.

Section F: The reporter shall chair the chapter public relations committee and develop public relations strategies to accurately define the public image of the agricultural education program and FFA chapter, develop or cause to be developed press releases concerning chapter activities, maintain or cause to be maintained a chapter website, develop working relationships with all local and school district media, ensure a complete photographic record of all chapter activities and perform such other duties and further duties as may be imposed upon him or her by the chapter.

Section G: The sentinel shall have responsibility for all meeting related equipment and shall maintain an inventory of all such equipment, ensure that all meeting and social venues are ready to receive members and guests prior to each function, take charge of candidates for degree and award ceremonies, assist the president in maintaining order, ensure a welcoming environment for guests and perform such other duties and further duties as may be imposed upon him or her by the chapter.

Section H: (OPTIONAL) The historian shall have responsibility for documenting events to create a complete and accurate chapter history and compile such documentation such as, but not limited to newspaper and magazine articles, photographs, video footage, significant web-based content, ceremony and banquet programs and other memorabilia which may be maintained to provide future generations a glimpse into the chapter's history. The historian shall also maintain records of historically significant anniversaries, past degree and award recipients, officers and alumni of distinction and periodically create displays which foster pride among the members and perform such other duties and further duties as may be imposed upon him or her by the chapter.

Section I: (OPTIONAL) The parliamentarian shall achieve a level of proficiency in parliamentary law, as prescribed in policies adopted by the chapter and shall rule on all questions of parliamentary conduct at chapter meetings, conduct parliamentary workshops for younger members or develop other content or achievement benchmarks that foster value for mastery of parliamentary procedures. The parliamentary shall have custody of the chapter's parliamentary reference texts and shall perform such other duties and further duties as may be imposed upon him or her by the chapter.

Section J: (OPTIONAL) The chaplain shall present invocations or benedictions at chapter functions and conduct or cause to be conducted reflections and camps, conferences and workshops as deemed appropriate by the chapter and shall perform other such duties and further duties as may be imposed on him or her by the chapter.

ARTICLE 5: Resignation, Removal of Officers, Officer Vacancies

Section A: The advisor or the executive committee with the advice and consent of the advisor, may, with good cause, remove any officer elected by the chapter. Good cause shall include, but not be limited to, violation of the provisions of the chapter’s officer contract, violation of chapter or departmental rules of conduct, violation of the school code of student conduct or violation of state or federal laws.

Section B: Any officer may resign at any time by giving written notice to the advisor, president or secretary. Such resignation shall take effect at the time specified in the notice, and, unless otherwise specified in the notice, the acceptance of such resignation shall not be necessary to make it effective.

Section C: Should the office of president become vacant; the vice president shall assume the title and duties of president. The executive committee may appoint an interim officer to fill any other vacancy until the chapter elects a qualified replacement.

ARTICLE 6: Committees

Section A: The standing committees of the chapter shall be in harmony with the National FFA Organization’s Quality Standards for Local Chapters. The committee designations and descriptions contained in these bylaws shall be amended to reflect the most current Quality Standards for Local Chapters adopted by the National FFA Organization for the membership year following revision of such standards. Such amendments shall be made without action by the chapter.

Section B: Each active member of this chapter shall be assigned to a committee which is deemed commensurate to the member’s interests, talents and skills. The chapter shall not be obligated to staff all committees, but any of the standing committees may be activated by the chapter president without the action of the chapter.

Section C: Each standing committee shall develop and submit to the executive committee a plan within the committee’s scope of responsibility and a corresponding budget within the timelines prescribed by the president. Each committee shall make regular and timely reports to the chapter concerning progress towards its respective goals.

Section D: The standing committees of the chapter and their respective duties are:

(1) Growing Leaders-Leadership shall plan and execute activities which help the individual develop technical, human relations and decision-making skills to grow leaders.

(2) Growing Leaders-Healthy Lifestyles shall plan and execute strategies which promote the well-being of students mentally or physically, in achieving the positive evolution of the whole person. (3) Growing Leaders- Scholarship shall plan and execute strategies which develop a positive attitude toward lifelong learning experiences.

(4) Growing Leaders-Personal Growth shall plan and execute strategies which improve the identity and self-awareness of members, striving to enhance the quality of life and contribute to members’ life goals and development.

(5) Growing Leaders- Career Success shall plan and execute strategies which promote student involvement and growth through agriculture-related experiences and/or entrepreneurship and promote career readiness.

(6) Building Communities-Environmental shall plan and execute strategies to preserve natural resources and develop more environmentally responsible individuals

(7) Building Communities –Human Resources shall plan and execute strategies which improve the welfare and well-being of members and citizens of the community

(8) Building Communities-Citizenship shall plan and execute strategies to encourage members to become active, involved citizens of their school, community and country.

(9) Building Communities –Stakeholder Engagement shall plan and execute strategies to develop teamwork and cooperation between the local chapter and stakeholders.

(10) Building Communities –Economic Development shall plans and execute strategies to improve the economic welfare of the community.

(11) Strengthening Agriculture-Support Group shall plan and execute strategies to develop and maintain positive relations among FFA, parents and community leaders interested in supporting agricultural education.

(12) Strengthening Agriculture –Chapter Recruitment shall plan and execute strategies to increase agricultural education enrollment and/or FFA membership and encourage greater participation.

(13) Strengthening Agriculture -Safety shall plan and execute strategies intended to enhance safety in the community

(14) Strengthening Agriculture –Agricultural Advocacy shall plan and execute strategies to articulate and promote agricultural programs, practices, policies and/or education to elicit action.

(15) Strengthening Agriculture -Agricultural Literacy shall plan and execute strategies to help consumers become better informed about the production, distribution and daily impact of food, fiber and fuel.

Section E: Subcommittees of a standing committee may be created by the president, executive committee, advisor or by the committee with the permission of the president and advisor.

ARTICLE 7: Transactions of the Chapter

Section A: The fiscal year of the chapter shall begin on August 1 and end on July 31.

Section B: The chapter shall adopt policies and procedures consistent with the fiduciary policies, procedures and audit standards of the Shiner ISD..