

Linn-Mar FFA Chapter Constitution

Article I. Name

Section A

The name of this organization shall be the Linn-Mar FFA Chapter. This organization may officially use the letters “FFA” and/or the words “Future Farmers of America” to designate the organization, its units and/or members.

Article II. Mission and Purpose

Section A

The Linn-Mar FFA Chapter makes a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural science education.

To accomplish this mission, Linn-Mar FFA Chapter:

- Develops competent and assertive agricultural leadership.
- Increases awareness of the global and technological importance of agriculture and its contribution to our well-being.
- Strengthens agriculture students’ confidence in themselves and their work.
- Promotes the intelligent choice and establishment of an agricultural career.
- Encourages achievement in supervised agricultural experience (SAE) programs.
- Encourages wise management of the community’s economic, environmental and human resources.
- Develops interpersonal skills in teamwork, communication, human relations and social interaction.
- Builds character and promotes citizenship, volunteerism and patriotism.
- Promotes cooperation and cooperative attitudes among all people.
- Promotes healthy lifestyles.
- Encourages excellence in scholarship.

Article III. Organization

Section A

The Linn-Mar FFA Chapter is chartered as a local unit of the Iowa FFA Association, which is chartered by the National FFA Organization. The Linn-Mar FFA Chapter is in the Southeast Sub-district of the Northeast District of the Iowa FFA Association.

Section B

The Linn-Mar FFA Chapter accepts in full the provisions of the constitution and by-laws of the Iowa FFA Association as revised and amended including its statements of purpose and its provision for membership.

Section C

The Linn-Mar FFA Chapter is the organization of, by, and for students enrolled in agricultural education at Linn-Mar High School. The chapter shall operate as an integral part of the instructional program of agricultural education.

Article IV. Procedures for Determining Standing of Chapter

Section A

The chapter shall be in good standing with the Iowa FFA Association and the National FFA Organization when the following are met:

1. Submit membership roster and dues by November 1.
2. Submit a program of activities (POA) by November 1.
3. Pay the annual affiliation fee by November 1.
4. Submit the Annual FFA Report by June 1.

Article V. Membership and Dues

Section A

Membership in the Linn-Mar FFA Chapter shall be of two kinds: student and adult.

Linn-Mar FFA Chapter Constitution (continued)

Section B

Student Membership - To be eligible for active membership in the Linn-Mar FFA Chapter, a student must be enrolled in the secondary agricultural education program.

To become an active member and retain membership, a student must:

1. While in high 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. High school seniors can also retain membership in the local FFA chapter if enrolled in an agriculture course at an accredited college or university or complete their high school graduation requirements after their junior year and not be enrolled in their high school for any other course. This policy is applicable to high school seniors only.
3. A member may retain active membership until November 30, following the fourth National FFA Convention after graduation from high school.
4. Pay all current dues by the date determined by the chapter.

Section C

Adult Membership - Membership shall be open to former student members and honorary degree recipients, present and former professional agricultural educators, parents of FFA members and others interested in and supportive of the FFA.

Section D

Honorary FFA Degree - Farmers, school superintendent, principals, members of boards of education, chapter advisors, teachers, staff members in agricultural education, business people and others who are helping to advance agricultural education and the FFA and who have rendered outstanding service, may be elected to receive an Honorary FFA Degree by a majority vote of the members present at any regular meeting.

Article VI. Degrees and Privileges of Student Membership

Section A

There shall be five degrees of student membership based on individual achievement. These are the Discovery FFA Degree, Greenhand FFA Degree, Chapter FFA Degree, State FFA Degree, and the American FFA Degree. The national organization shall set the minimum qualifications for each degree.

Article VII. Emblem

Section A

Members are entitled to wear official FFA clothing and emblems during student membership in accordance with the proper usage. When a member leaves the list of student member they shall lose the privilege of the emblem and official items.

Article VIII. Officers and Procedures for Election

Section A

The elected officers of the Linn-Mar FFA Chapter shall be President, Growing Leaders Vice-President, Building Communities Vice-President, Strengthening Agriculture Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Reporter, Historian and Sentinel. Elected officers and the advisor shall constitute the executive committee that can act in the absence of a regular chapter meeting.

Section B

The officers shall be elected by ballot annually at a regular meeting of the chapter from among the active members in good standing who are attending high school. Officer candidates must apply and go through the interviewing process with the nominating committee. To be elected, a nominee must receive a majority of the votes cast. If a nominee does not receive a majority of the votes, a revote will be held between the two nominees receiving the most votes during the first vote.

Linn-Mar FFA Chapter Constitution (continued)

Section C

A nominating committee made up of senior members appointed by the president and advisor shall study and review the qualifications of all members under consideration for chapter officers and report to the members. Other nominations for officers may be submitted by members from the floor providing the nominee has applied and has been interviewed by the nominating committee. The nominating committee shall act as tellers during the voting process.

Section D

The election of officers and the Officer Installation Ceremony will take place during the regular May meeting of the chapter. Officers shall begin their duties immediately after the Officer Installation Ceremony.

Section E

Any officer may be retired by a two-thirds vote of the active membership.

Section F

Any officer missing two consecutive meetings, unless advance approval is secured, shall be retired from office.

Section G

All vacancies in office occurring during the period between elections shall be filled by the executive committee in meeting or by special election, if they so direct.

Section H

The executive committee shall have authority to conduct necessary business for the chapter between meetings. A quorum of the officers must be present to conduct official business of the chapter. A quorum is a majority of the elected officers present at a meeting.

Article IX. Program of Activities

Section A

On or before November 1st of each school year, there shall be ready for the chapter's use, a Program of Activities for the following twelve months that has been worked out by the chapter officers and approved

by the chapter membership and submitted to the state FFA advisor on or before the due date.

The annual plan shall indicate the projects and activities to be undertaken by the way and means of reaching objectives.

Article X. Meetings

Section A

Business meetings of the chapter will be held monthly to fit the school schedule and/or summer school schedule. A quorum of in-school members must be present to conduct official business of the chapter.

Section B

The president, executive committee and/or advisor may call additional or special meetings, as the need arises.

Section C

A majority of in-school active members present shall constitute a quorum.

Section D

Members shall contact the sentinel and/or advisor ahead of time if they are not able to attend a meeting because of activities conflicting.

Article XI. Divisions and Committees

Section A

The Growing Leaders Vice-President shall chair the Growing Leaders Development Division of the POA; the Building Communities Vice-President shall chair the Building Communities Development Division of the POA; and the Strengthening Agriculture Vice-President shall chair the Strengthening Agriculture Development Division. All active members shall serve on at least one standing committee.

Section B

Members of each standing sub-committee shall establish the annual activities and goals of the chapter related to their respective committee and submit them to the respective vice-president before September 1.

Section C

There will be three divisions. These include: Growing Leaders Development Division, Building Communities Development Division, and

Strengthening Agriculture Development Division. The Chapter shall have the following standing subcommittees as a part of their operational structure:

Linn-Mar FFA Chapter Constitution (continued)

- I. Career Success
- II. Healthy Lifestyle
- III. Leadership
- IV. Personal Growth
- V. Scholarship
- VI. Citizenship
- VII. Economic Development
- VIII. Environmental
- IX. Human Resources
- X. Stakeholder Engagement
- XI. Agricultural Advocacy
- XII. Agricultural Literacy
- XIII. Chapter Recruitment
- XIV. Safety
- XV. Support Group

Article XII. Dues

Section A

No members shall be considered as active and in good standing unless he/she pays in full. Annual dues shall be sufficient to pay local, district, state, and national FFA assessments.

Section B

Annual membership dues of the FFA shall be established by a majority of the members at a regularly scheduled chapter meeting.

Section C

The membership year of the FFA shall be from November 1 to October 31. A member shall retain active membership until November 30, following the fourth National FFA Convention after graduation from high school. Ideally each member shall pay dues before October 15th.

Article XIII. Amendments

Section A

Proposed amendments to this constitution shall be submitted in writing to the secretary at least one meeting in advance of any meeting where the amendment is to be considered. The executive committee, after study of the proposed amendment, shall bring it to the chapter for vote with their recommendation of passage or rejection.

Bylaws

Article I. Relationship to the Constitution

Section A

The Bylaws shall be a part of the Constitution of the Linn-Mar FFA Chapter.

Section B

Proposed bylaws to this constitution shall be submitted in writing to the secretary at least one meeting in advance of any meeting where the bylaw is to be considered. The executive committee, after study of the proposed bylaw, shall bring it to the chapter for vote with their recommendation of passage or rejection.

Article II. The Fiscal Year

Section A

The fiscal year of the Chapter shall be July 1 through June 30.

Article III. Inspection of Books and Records

Section A

Any member or member's agent may inspect books and records of the chapter at any reasonable time. Arrangement for such inspection shall be made with the chapter FFA advisor.

Article IV. Eligibility Rule

Section A

A member may retain active membership as long as they display conduct consistent with the ideals and purposes of the National FFA Organization.

Section B

All members will be under the Linn-Mar Community School District's Co-and Extra-Curricular Policy

- * Constitution Adopted by the Chapter, 01/76
- ** Constitution Lasted Amended by the
Chapter, 9/18