

District 11 4-H Council By-laws
Adopted February 7, 1961
Last approved revision on June 20, 2019

1. Name: The name of this organization shall be the District 11 4-H Council.

2. Purpose & Objectives: This shall be a nonprofit organization exclusively for the purpose of promoting 4-H Club work.

The objectives of this organization shall be:

- i. To provide learning situations for the development of leadership, responsibility, and effective citizenship.
- ii. To provide educational and challenging experiences that will enable young people to become knowledgeable and skilled in their selected project areas.
- iii. To provide information and training in other 4-H activities as members' interests dictate.
- iv. To help each member experience personal growth and achievement, as well as be of service to others.

3. Membership: Membership in the District 4-H Council is open to all youth regardless of socioeconomic level, race, color, sex, religion, disability, national origin, genetic information, or veteran status. Regular membership shall consist of four elected delegates from each County 4-H Council and the Executive Committee of the District 4-H Council. The current Chair and the vice-Chair of each County 4-H Council will be two of the delegates. In the event a regularly elected delegate cannot serve, an alternate may be selected by the county concerned with the alternate having all rights and privileges of a regularly elected delegate in the absence of the regularly elected delegate.

Council members shall be 9th grade through 12th grade.

The term of office of District Council Members shall be from September 1 of the current year to August 31 of the succeeding year.

Only the county with the District Council Chair serving as a county voting delegate, has the right to elect an additional delegate to District Council.

In the event a county must replace a District 4-H Council member, it must be done in writing and submitted to the District Office.

4. This club is organized exclusively for charitable, educational and scientific purposes including, for such purposes, the making of distributions to organizations that qualify as exempt organizations under section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future

federal tax code.

- 5.** No part of the net earnings of this club shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to its members, trustees, officers or other private person, except that this club shall be empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payment and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth in this constitution.
- 6.** No substantial part of this club's activities shall be the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and this club shall not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of or in opposition to any candidate for public office.
- 7.** Notwithstanding any other provisions of this constitution, this club shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on (a) by a corporation exempt from federal income tax under section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code, of (b) by a corporation, contributions, to which are deductible under section 170 (c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code.

8. Officers

The officers of the Coastal Bend District 4-H Council shall be: Chair, 1st Vice Chair, 2nd Vice Chair, 3rd Vice Chair, Secretary, Health & Safety, Public Relations Chair, and Parliamentarian. The Chair, 1st Vice Chair and 2nd Vice Chair must reach their 16th birthday on or before August 31 of the calendar year in which they are installed as district officers and must not have reached their 19th birthday on or before August 31 of the calendar year in which they are installed as district officers. The remaining officers shall reach their 15th birthday on or before August 31 of the calendar year in which they are installed as district officers.

Officers shall be elected from the members who are currently serving on District Council. If these candidates are not eligible to run or do not wish to run, the county may select a representative to run for district office in accordance with their county standing rules. Elections shall be conducted by secret ballot. A majority constitutes an election. The final outcome of elections will be determined by a cumulative score for each candidate based on a speech, interview, application and popular vote as documented in the *District 11 4-H Council Election Procedures*.

District 11 Council Officers MUST attend 75% of all events, activities, and meetings (determined by Council Advisors & District 4-H Specialist at the Officer retreat at the beginning of the year). Council officers who fail to meet this requirement will NOT be eligible to run for a district council officer position the following year. Council officers may be removed of their position at the discretion of the Council Advisors should they not meet this requirement.

If a minority has been elected to any office position and meets the Texas 4-H Council age requirements, they will serve as a District Representative to Texas 4-H Council. This election procedure is in place to ensure that District 11 has maximum representation on Texas 4-H Council.

All candidates for District office must complete an officer candidate application for nomination. Applications will be due to the District Office with county delegate applications for District Leadership Lab or its substitute.

9. Term of Office

The officers shall be elected annually and shall not be eligible for the same office for more than one term. Officers shall be elected to a higher office if elected to an office a second time. The order of offices in descending order will be Chair, 1st Vice Chair, 2nd Vice Chair, 3rd Vice Chair, Secretary, Health & Safety Officer, Public Relations Chair, and Parliamentarian. The term of office shall be from District Leadership Lab or its substitute to the end of District Leadership Lab or its substitute the next year.

10. Annual Meeting and Election of Officers

The annual meeting for the purpose of election of officers shall be held at District Leadership Lab or its substitute. Each county will be allowed to nominate two officer candidates provided at least one is a minority.

11. Executive Committee

The Executive Committee shall be composed of the following offices: Chair, 1st Vice Chair, 2nd Vice Chair, 3rd Vice Chair, Secretary, Health & Safety Officer; Public Relations Chair, and Parliamentarian.

B. There shall be only one member of the Executive Committee from any one county.

12. Standing Committees

The standing committees shall be:

Food and Nutrition
Clothing and Textiles
Livestock
Photography
Wildlife
Horse
Companion/Small Animal
Public Speaking

At least one member of the Executive Committee shall serve on each standing committee.

Committee membership shall consist of the Coastal Bend District 4-H Council delegates. Membership on the Standing Committees will be rotated periodically as deemed advisable.

Additional committees may be appointed at any time and in any way the Executive Committee may deem advisable.

13. Delegates to the Texas 4-H Council

Delegates to Texas 4-H Council shall consist of the District Council Chair and 1st Vice Chair. Each of these individuals must be at least 16 but not more than 18 years of age as of August 31 of the current calendar year. Should any of these not be able to serve, a delegate will be selected from the Executive Committee in this order: 2nd Vice, 3rd Vice, Secretary, Treasurer, Public Relations Chair, and Parliamentarian.

14. Meetings

The District 4-H Council shall meet two times a year, and call meetings when necessary.

15. Voting Body

The voting body will consist of the county delegates or designated alternates and District Council Chair. Designated alternates must be submitted to the District office in writing. Roberts Rules of Order will be the guide for all parliamentary procedure matters. County delegates or designated alternates must be present to vote. **District Council officers that have graduated are NOT allowed to vote in officer elections at Leadership Lab.**

Quorum

A quorum shall consist of 21 members. Ten counties shall be represented.

Council Advisors

One male and one female County Extension Agent will be designated by the district office to serve as Advisors to District Council. Advisors will serve a two year term with advisors rotating off in alternate years. The District 4-H Specialist shall also serve as an advisor to District 4-H Council.

Conflicts with Texas 4-H Council By-laws

Texas 4-H Council by-laws will supercede District Council by-laws in the event of a conflict.

Coastal Bend District 4-H Council Resolution

Be it resolved by the District 4-H Council that no member shall be in possession or consume alcoholic beverages, tobacco products or illegal drugs while traveling to and from or participating in 4-H activities. In the event a District Council member violates this resolution, disciplinary action, including possible dismissal, will be taken by the Executive Committee with the District Extension Directors and Council Advisors serving as advisors.

District Council Officers will sign a Code of Conduct at the beginning of their term of office. This Code of Conduct will be signed by their parents/guardians and kept on file at the District Office.

ARTICLE VIII: FISCAL ACCOUNTABILITY

The 4-H club/group shall adhere to all guidelines related to financial accountability as outlined in the Texas 4-H Youth Development 4-H Club Financial Management Rules and Guidelines.

ARTICLE IX: CLUB DISBANDMENT

Upon the disbandment of the club, all real property, including money, equipment and land shall become the property of the District 4-H Program for care and disposition and authorizes the Texas A&M Agrilife Extension Service and county extension agent(s) full rights to access bank records, bank funds, and all other banking authority. This also applies to all inventory and assets acquired by and or owed by this organization.

The last official duty of the club's manager shall be to affect the transfer of club property and to turn over club records to the county Extension Agent or other extension designees.

ARTICLE X: AMENDMENTS

These bylaws may be amended at any regular meeting of the club by a two-thirds vote of the members present, provided that the proposed amendments have been presented to the club in writing and filed with the secretary at the previous meeting of the club. Amendments must not conflict with the basic 4-H philosophy or the Texas 4-H Club/Group Charter Agreement. These amendments are effective upon the affirmative vote of the members present.