



# PEARLAND ISD FFA STUDENT HANDBOOK 2023-2024

Pearland FFA Website: <https://pearland.ffanow.org/>

Instagram- pearlandffa

Facebook- Pearland FFA - Official Site

# FFA Handbook Acknowledgement

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RECEIPT AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE PEARLAND ISD FFA STUDENT HANDBOOK, FFA CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS 2023-2024

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Name (Please Print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
ID #

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Campus

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Name (Please Print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature

My student and I accept responsibility for accessing, reading, understanding, and following the guidelines in the “Pearland ISD (Independent School District) FFA Student Handbook.”

I understand that the “Pearland ISD FFA Student Handbook,” “Pearland ISD Student Code of Conduct,” “FFA Constitution and Bylaws” and school district policies contain information that my student and I may need during the school year. My child will be held accountable for their behavior and will be subject to disciplinary consequences. If I have questions regarding the documents listed above, I should direct those questions to the appropriate Ag Science Teacher (AST) or lead Ag Science Teacher (AST).

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student’s Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date



# Table of Contents

FFA Handbook Acknowledgement .....	2
FFA Livestock Show Travel Agreement .....	3
Public Notification of Nondiscrimination .....	5
Notificación Publica de No Discriminación en Programas Vocacionales .....	5
Pearland ISD FFA Chapter Handbook .....	6
What is FFA? .....	7
Membership Requirements .....	7
How do I become a member? .....	7
Membership Requirements: .....	7
FFA Official Dress .....	8
Female Pearland ISD FFA Dress.....	8
Male Pearland ISD FFA Dress .....	8
Proper Use of the FFA Jacket .....	8
How to Wear Awards .....	8
FFA Competition Events .....	9
Leadership Development Events (LDEs) .....	9
Career Development Events (CDEs).....	9
Agriscience Fair .....	9
Raising Livestock (SAEs): .....	10
Feeding period - Local Show .....	10
Feeding Period - Majors Shows.....	10
Extracurricular Activity Absences .....	11
Senior Students: .....	11
Student Eligibility for Livestock Shows .....	11
Travel to Livestock Shows .....	11
Staging Livestock.....	12
Student Conduct .....	12
Pearland ISD FFA Letter Jacket Criteria.....	13
Greenhand FFA Degree.....	14
Chapter FFA Degree .....	14
State/Lone Star FFA Degree.....	15
American FFA Degree.....	16
Stars Divisions.....	17
Additional Information .....	17
Proficiency Overview .....	18
Recognition .....	18
Local Scholarship Opportunities.....	19
Texas FFA Scholarships .....	19
Overview .....	19
Texas FFA College Scholarship Eligibility and Requirements .....	19
National FFA Scholarships.....	21
Overview .....	21
FFA Officers and Election Process .....	21
Parent Responsibilities and Expectations.....	21
Amendments .....	22

## **Public Notification of Nondiscrimination**

Pearland ISD offers Career and Technical Education programs: Agriculture, Arts & A/V Production, Architecture & Construction, Business, Marketing & Finance, Human Services, Hospitality & Tourism, Information Technology, Law Enforcement, Manufacturing, STEM, and Transportation.

It is the policy of the Pearland Independent School District not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex or disability in its vocational programs, services or activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups as required by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended.

It is the policy of the Pearland Independent School District not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, handicap, or age in its employment practices as required by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended; and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended.

Pearland Independent School District will take steps to assure that lack of English language skills will not be a barrier to admission and participation in all educational and vocational programs.

For information about your rights or grievance procedures, contact the Title IX Coordinator, Sundie Dahlkamp, Executive Director of Human Resources, at 281-485-3203, or Section 504 Coordinator, Dr. Lisa Nixon, Assistant Superintendent for Special Programs at 1928 N. Main St., Pearland, TX 77581, 281-485-3203.

---

## **Notificación Publica de No Discriminación en Programas Vocacionales**

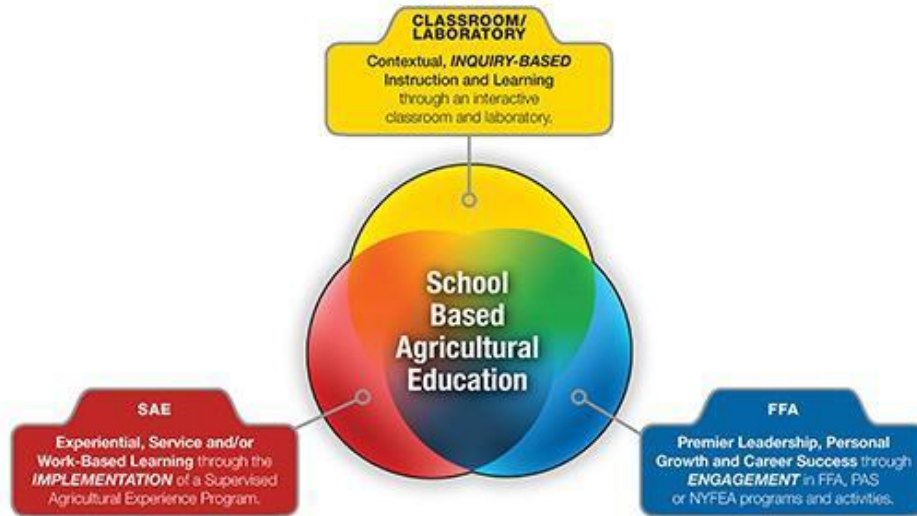
Pearland ISD ofrece programas vocacionales en Agricultura, Alimentos y Recursos Naturales; Arquitectura y Construcción, Artes, Tecnología A/V (audio/visual) y Comunicación; Negocios; Gestión y Administración de Empresas; Finanzas; Ciencia de la Salud, Hotelería y Turismo, Servicios Humanos; Tecnología de la Información, Derecho, Seguridad Pública, Correcciones y Seguridad; Manufactura; Mercadotécnica, Ventas y Servicios; Ciencia, Tecnología, Ingeniería y Matemáticas; Transporte, Distribución y Logística. La admisión a estos programas se basa en el interés y aptitud del estudiante, espacio disponible en la clase, y las normas en la guía de matriculación del programa de CTE (educación profesional y técnica).

Es un reglamento de Pearland ISD no discriminar por motivos de raza, color, origen nacional, sexo o impedimento físico, en sus programas, servicios o actividades vocacionales, tal como lo requieren el Título VI de la Ley de Derechos Civiles de 1964, según enmienda; el Título IX de las Reformas Educativas, de 1972, y la Sección 504 de la Ley de Rehabilitación de 1973, según enmienda.

Pearland ISD tomará las medidas necesarias para asegurar que la falta de habilidad en el uso del inglés no sea un obstáculo para la admisión y participación en todos los programas educativos y vocacionales. Para más información sobre sus derechos o procedimientos para quejas, favor de comunicarse con: el Coordinador del Título IX, Sundie Dahlkamp, Executive Director de Recursos Humanos, y/o a la Coordinadora de la Sección 504, Dr. Lisa Nixon, Assistant Superintendent Special Programs, a la dirección 1928 N. Main, Pearland, TX, 77581, o al número telefónico 281-485- 3203.

# Pearland ISD FFA Chapter Handbook

**Agricultural education** prepares students for successful careers and a lifetime of informed choices in global agriculture, food, fiber, and natural resources systems.



Through agricultural education, students are provided opportunities for leadership development, personal growth, and career success. Agricultural education instruction is delivered through three major components:

- Classroom/Laboratory instruction (contextual learning)
- Supervised Agricultural Experience programs (work-based learning)
- Student leadership organizations (National FFA Organization)

Supervised Agriculture Experience (SAE). Students with a SAE learn by doing, such as the following:

**Entrepreneurship** - Own and operate an agricultural business.

(e.g., a lawn care service, a pay-to-fish operation, holiday poinsettia production and sales.)

**Placement** – Obtain a job or internship on a farm or ranch, at an agriculture-based business or in a school or factory laboratory.

**Research and Experimentation** - Plan and conduct a scientific experiment.

(e.g., Determine whether the phases of the moon affect plant growth, or test and determine the efficacy of different welding methods.)

**Exploratory** - This type of SAE is appropriate for all agriculture students. This SAE activity is designed primarily to help students become literate in agriculture and/or become aware of careers in the Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources (AFNR) career cluster and results in the development of a plan to begin an SAE.

## What is FFA?

Future Farmers of America (FFA) is a dynamic student-led leadership development organization for students of agricultural education. The FFA makes a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth, and career success through agricultural education. Texas FFA has evolved from an organization focusing primarily on production agriculture, to a broader-based organization that addresses the needs and interests of students in urban and suburban schools in addition to the rural communities from which FFA rose in 1929. FFA gives students the opportunity to apply practical classroom knowledge to real world experiences through local, state, and national competitions.

Texas FFA is the nation's largest state FFA association with a membership of more than 169,333 members, and 1,095 chapters in Texas. The Texas FFA continues to help the next generation rise to meet challenges by helping its members to develop their own unique talents and explore their interests in a broad range of career pathways. We are still the Future Farmers of America, but we are the Future Biologists, Chemists, Veterinarians, Engineers, and Entrepreneurs of America.

## Membership Requirements

### How do I become a member?

FFA dues are \$50 which covers your membership at the National, State, Area, District and Chapter level. Once membership dues are paid, the student is eligible to participate in any FFA competition for that school year. Membership dues are due by September 29, 2023, to any Agriculture Science Teacher (AST).

### Membership Requirements:

Students must read and abide by the Pearland Independent School District (PISD) FFA Chapter Constitution and Bylaws. Students must also be a "member in good standings" to participate in any Pearland ISD FFA competitions/activities. Each FFA member must meet the following criteria:

- Member must be enrolled in Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources courses during participating school year.
- Member must have paid dues in full.
- Members must sell 10 items in the fall fundraiser (Fresh Country) or pay a \$100 buyout fee.

## FFA Official Dress

Texas FFA Association Policy Handbook Section 14.5: Official Dress Expectations

### Female Pearland ISD FFA Dress

- Black skirt. The skirt is to be at least knee length, hemmed evenly across the bottom, with a slit no longer than two inches above the knee, excluding the kick pleat. Black slacks may be appropriate for travelling and outdoor activities.
- White collared blouse and official FFA blue scarf.
- Black dress shoes with closed heels and toe (No boots, sandals, open-toed shoes, tennis shoes.)
- Black nylon hosiery.
- Official FFA jacket zipped to the top.

### Male Pearland ISD FFA Dress

- Black dress pants. (No jeans- blue or black, leather, pleather, etc.)
- White dress shirt and official FFA tie.
- Black dress shoes with closed heels and toe (No boots, sandals, open-toed shoes, tennis shoes.)
- Black socks.
- Official FFA jacket zipped to the top.

### Proper Use of the FFA Jacket

- The jacket is to be worn only by members.
- The jacket should be kept clean and neat.
- The back of the jacket should have only a large official FFA emblem, the name of the state and the name of the local chapter, region, district, or area. The front of the jacket should have only the official FFA emblem, the name of the individual, one office or honor and the year of that office or honor was earned.
- The jacket should be worn on official occasions with the zipper fastened to the top. The collar should be turned down and the cuffs buttoned.
- Members and officers should wear the jacket on all FFA occasions and other occasions where the chapter or state association is represented. It may be worn to school and other appropriate places.
- The jacket should only be worn to places that are appropriate for members to visit.
- School letters and insignia of other organizations should not be attached to or worn on the jacket.
- When the jacket becomes faded and worn, it should be discarded, or the emblems and lettering removed.
- The emblems and lettering should be removed if the jacket is given to or sold to a non-member.
- A member should act professionally when wearing the FFA jacket.
- Members must not be under the influence or in possession of any prohibited items as stated in the “PISD Student Code of Conduct” when representing Pearland ISD FFA. In addition, members should show their leadership qualities when they encounter prohibited items and discourage others from inappropriate behavior.

### How to Wear Awards



- Chapter degree, officer and award medals should be worn beneath the name on the right side of the jacket.
- State FFA Degree or American Degree keys should be worn above the name on the right side of the jacket or attached to a standard key chain.
- No more than three medals should be worn on the jacket. These should represent the highest degree earned, highest office held, and the highest award earned.

## **FFA Competition Events**

### **Leadership Development Events (LDEs)** – August through December

Leadership Development Events focus on creating situations for members to demonstrate their abilities in public speaking, decision making, communication and their knowledge of agriculture and the FFA organization. Team and individual events are used to reinforce what is taught in agricultural science classrooms. All LDE events have elimination rounds at the district and area before the state level competition.

More information can be found on the Texas FFA Website: <https://www.texasffa.org/lde>

### **Career Development Events (CDEs)** – August through April

Career Development Events build on what is learned in agricultural classes and encourage members to put their knowledge into practice. These events are designed to help a member prepare for an agriculture career by testing and challenging the student's technical, leadership, interpersonal and teamwork skills, and knowledge of the subject matter. CDEs answer the question, "When will I use this knowledge in the real world?" Many CDEs are qualifying events for the National FFA CDE competition and/or offer scholarship opportunities.

More information can be found on the Texas FFA Website: <https://www.texasffa.org/cde>

### **Speaking Events** – October through June

Speaking Development Events are designed to develop all FFA members' ability to express themselves on a given subject. Students are encouraged to develop their communication skills and learn to formulate their remarks for presentation in various situations. The state finals of the speaking development events are held with the Texas FFA Convention in July.

More information can be found on the Texas FFA website: <https://www.texasffa.org/speaking-events>

### **Agriscience Fair**

Students use the scientific process to reinforce skills and principles they learned in agriscience courses. They conduct research projects and prepare scientific reports and display for judging at the state level. State winners in each category and division are awarded \$1,000 scholarship and advance to the National FFA Agriscience Fair held with National FFA Convention. Students can be exhibitors at Major Stock Shows for additional premiums and scholarships.

More information can be found on the Texas FFA

Website: <https://www.texasffa.org/agriscience-fair>

### **Raising Livestock (SAEs):**

Use of the Pearland ISD Ag. Facility will be limited to enrolled high school students and/or Junior FFA students with a sibling using the Ag. Facility. Parents and students must agree to abide by the rules set forth in the “Pearland ISD FFA Student Handbook” and “Pearland ISD Ag Facility Handbook” regarding the Ag Facility. Students may design their SAE in the area that they are interested in (cattle, pigs, lambs, goats, poultry, rabbits, and others).

**For information regarding specific livestock species, please contact the following AST sponsoring/overseeing the species:**

- Swine – Hunter Morgan and Rhonda Morgan
  - [Morganj@pearlandisd.org](mailto:Morganj@pearlandisd.org)
  - [Morganr@pearlandisd.org](mailto:Morganr@pearlandisd.org)
- Goats – Brady Morgan
  - [Morganjo@pearlandisd.org](mailto:Morganjo@pearlandisd.org)
- Lambs – Michaela Morgan
  - [Morganm@pearlandisd.org](mailto:Morganm@pearlandisd.org)
- Breeding Heifers – Amber Brending
  - [Breendinga@pearlandisd.org](mailto:Breendinga@pearlandisd.org)
- Steers – Jenna Lawhorn
  - [Lawhornj@pearlandisd.org](mailto:Lawhornj@pearlandisd.org)
- Poultry – Jenna Lawhorn
  - [Lawhornj@pearlandisd.org](mailto:Lawhornj@pearlandisd.org)
- Rabbits – Michaela Morgan
  - [Morganm@pearlandisd.org](mailto:Morganm@pearlandisd.org)

**Pearland ISD FFA shows two feeding periods throughout the year:**

#### **Feeding period - Local Show**

- Pearland ISD Livestock Show & Career Expo
- Brazoria County Fair
- State Fair of Texas

#### **Feeding Period - Majors Shows**

- Fort Worth Stock Show & Rodeo
- San Antonio Livestock Expo
- Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo
- Rodeo Austin – Star of Texas

Each species' timeline is different, and calendar dates for each species may be altered during the school year. Parents and students must be aware there is no guarantee that a PISD teacher will be on-site each day during any livestock show for a student's absence to be counted as extra-curricular.

Please work closely with your species' AST to coordinate dates for extra-curricular absences. Cattle projects **do not** follow the feeding periods as stated above.

### **Extracurricular Activity Absences**

Students who participate in extracurricular activities during the school year shall follow PISD Policy FM (LOCAL).

#### **Senior Students:**

- No senior student may start a project that will not be finished before the end of the school year.
- Graduated seniors will not be allowed to utilize the Pearland ISD Ag facility. Animals will be removed from the project center at the time of load up for the last designated show and will not return to barn after designated show.
- Graduating seniors and/or students not intending to feed a livestock project for the following school year must remove all personal belongings (feed, storage containers, etc.) from the PISD Ag facility at move out of project or designated time as determined by AST. Failure to comply will result in the forfeiture of personal belongings to the PISD Ag Facility.

## **Student Eligibility for Livestock Shows**

To participate in any livestock, show, an FFA student must meet the following requirements:

- Enrolled in PISD and a member of Pearland ISD FFA.
- All FFA dues must be paid in full.
- Be enrolled in an agriculture course.
- Have approval of AST.
- Be a member in good standing with the Pearland ISD FFA Chapter.
- Attend all mandatory livestock meetings for the specific livestock project.
- Be passing all subjects at the time eligibility is determined per University Interscholastic League (UIL) guidelines. If a student is ineligible due to grades, the hosting organization may have additional rules.
- Have paid entry fees on time and meet show requirements.

### **Travel to Livestock Shows**

- At Pearland FFA, we believe that participating in livestock shows is a group effort and we expect our species-specific members to travel and stall as a group under supervision of their AST. This not only fosters teamwork and camaraderie, but also ensures the safety and well-being of both the animals and our members. Circumstances may arise that necessitate travel in non-district trailers however the expectation remains that members caravan and stall together. Failure to meet these expectations may result in forfeiture of your "good standing" status and revocation of the animal's validation.
- When Pearland ISD FFA ASTs (Agricultural Science Teachers) attend a show, the ASTs must enforce any violations in ethical livestock practices and validation infractions.

- PISD will provide transportation, when possible, for livestock to shows and/or validations.
- PISD will not transport students to/ from livestock shows nor house students during livestock shows.
- Students and families must provide their own personal transportation and housing for all livestock show activities.
- Parents must sign a PISD FFA Livestock Show Travel Agreement for their child(ren) prior to attending a livestock show.

## **Staging Livestock**

Students will not be permitted to pre-stage livestock before shows to be subject to the management of the project by outside individuals or teams. Animals must be maintained under the care of the student exhibitor and the AST overseeing the project, from validation until exhibition of the project has concluded.

## **Student Conduct**

### **PISD Authority and Jurisdiction**

School authority and rules of the district to administer discipline applies whenever the district's interest is involved, on or off school grounds, in conjunction with or independent of classes and school-sponsored activities. Please refer to the “Student Code of Conduct,” located on the district website, under the “Students” tab, for all guidelines.

### **Conduct During Overnight Trips/Activities/Events**

Career Technical Student Originations (CTSO) sponsors are responsible for all PISD students attending the activity/event/competition, and sponsors are responsible for ensuring student safety and appropriate behavior/conduct.

### **Student Behavior**

Students must adhere to Pearland ISD’s code of conduct, behavior expectations and the hosting entity’s expectations/policies. Violations may result in the student being sent home at the parent’s expense. Behavior expectations include, but are not limited to the following:

- Students shall not break curfew, set by the AST.
  - Students must stay in designated room assignments.
  - Students may not loiter outside the hotel or depart the premises without a sponsor.
  - Room checks will be conducted. Each student must be visible at that time.
  - Friends or family are permitted to visit FFA students with permission of the AST during set hours and location.
- 
- For overnight events, rooms are gender specific, and sponsors may assign students to rooms at his/her discretion. Members of the opposite sex are not permitted to enter rooms of the opposite sex at any time.

- Visual body piercings will comply with the district's Student Code of Conduct and FFA standards.

## **Pearland ISD FFA Letter Jacket Criteria**

To earn a letter jacket, a Pearland ISD FFA member must complete one of the following requirements:

- Advanced to the State FFA Leadership Development Event/Speaking Development Events.
- Advanced to State FFA Career Development Event.
- Advanced to State FFA Degree Check.
- Advance to an auction at a major livestock show.
- Win Breed Champion at a major livestock show.
- Win division in ag science fair at a major livestock show or State FFA.
- Place Grand Champion, Reserve Grand Champion, or Showmanship at Pearland Expo or Brazoria County Fair.
- Banner at Area III Leadership Development Events, Career Development Events, Speaking Development Events or win an individual award.

Major Livestock Shows include:

- Fort Worth Livestock Show
- San Antonio Livestock Exposition
- San Angelo Livestock Show
- Rodeo Austin - Star of Texas Livestock Show
- Houston Livestock Show
- State Fair of Texas

*The cost of the letter jacket, including the letter, is the Pearland ISD FFA member's responsibility. The Pearland ISD FFA Chapter will not pay for any part of the jacket or letter expenses.*

## **Greenhand FFA Degree**

FFA members enrolled in their first year of high school credit agricultural science, which have satisfactory plans for a supervised agricultural experience (SAE) program and that have demonstrated their understanding of the history and purpose of the FFA may apply for their Greenhand Degree. This degree of active membership is awarded at the chapter level.

To receive a Greenhand FFA Degree, members must meet the following requirements:

- Enroll in an agricultural education program and have satisfactory plans for a Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE).
- Learn and explain the FFA Creed, FFA Mission and Motto, and FFA salute.
- Describe and explain the meaning of the FFA emblem and FFA colors.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the FFA Code of Ethics and the proper use of the FFA jacket.
- Show an understanding of the organization's history, the chapter constitution and bylaws and the chapter Program of Activities.
- Own or have access to the Official FFA Manual and the Official FFA Student Handbook.
- Submit a written application for the Greenhand FFA Degree.
- Students must complete five community service hours.

## **Chapter FFA Degree**

Those FFA members that have received their Greenhand degree may apply for the Chapter Degree. Members must be enrolled in an agricultural science class, have completed at least two semesters in agricultural science at or above the ninth-grade level, have in operation an approved SAE program, demonstrate leadership skills, and be actively involved in the activities of the local FFA chapter. This degree of active membership is awarded at the chapter level. The Chapter FFA Degree is given to an FFA chapter's top members.

To receive a Chapter FFA Degree, members must meet the following requirements:

- Received the Greenhand FFA Degree.
- Satisfactorily completed 180 hours (or the equivalent) of systematic school instruction in agricultural education at or above the ninth-grade level.
- Have an approved SAE in operation.
- Enrolled in an agriculture course.
- Participated in the planning and implementation of at least three official FFA chapter activities.
- Earned and productively invested at least \$150 or have worked at least 45 hours outside of scheduled class time, or a combination of the two, through their SAE.
- Have developed plans for continued growth and improvement of their SAE.
- Effectively lead a group discussion for 15 minutes.
- Demonstrated five parliamentary law procedures.
- Show progress toward achievement in FFA award programs.
- Have a satisfactory academic record.
- Submitted a written application for the Chapter FFA Degree.
- Complete a minimum of 10 hours of community service activities.

## State/Lone Star FFA Degree

This is the highest degree of membership the State FFA Association can award. FFA members may apply to receive the Lone Star Degree only after they have received the Chapter degree. Those wishing to receive their Lone Star Degree must have been an active FFA member for at least two years, complete at least four semesters of agricultural science at or above the ninth-grade level, maintain a supervised agricultural experience (SAE) program, invest considerable time and money in their SAE, demonstrate their leadership skills and show a commitment to the FFA through involvement at the chapter level and above. This degree of active membership is awarded at the state level during the Texas FFA convention.

To receive a State FFA Degree, members must meet the following requirements:

- Received a Chapter FFA Degree.
- Have been an active FFA member for at least two years (24 months) at the time of receiving the State FFA Degree
- Have completed at least 2 years (360 hours) of systematic school instruction in agricultural education at or above the ninth-grade level, which includes an SAE.
- Have earned and productively invested at least \$1000 and worked at least three hundred hours more than scheduled class time, in a supervised agricultural experience program. The combination of hours and earnings multiplied by a factor of 3.56 must be equal to or greater than the number 1,000.
- Demonstrated leadership ability by performing ten parliamentary law procedures, giving a six-minute speech on a topic relating to agriculture or FFA, and serving as an FFA officer, committee chairperson, or committee member.
- Have a satisfactory academic record, certified by the agriculture teacher and the school principal or superintendent.
- Participated in the planning and implementation of the chapter's Program of Activities.
- As of May 15, have completed ten activities above the chapter level in at least three of six distinct categories: leadership development events, career development events, conventions and meetings, project shows, student awards and leadership and service as described in policies adopted by the Board of Directors.
- Complete at least 25 hours of community service in at least two different activities. All community service hours are cumulative, i.e., the ten community service hours used to obtain the chapter degree can be used toward the state degree.

## American FFA Degree

This degree of active membership is awarded by the National FFA Organization and is the highest level of active membership which can be achieved within the FFA. This final step in the FFA Degree system encourages members to grow and achieve personally toward establishing yourself in an agricultural career. Members may apply for their American degree only if they have received the State FFA Degree, have graduated from high school at least twelve months prior to the national convention and meet the exceedingly high standards for the degree.

These requirements include an excellent record of involvement within the FFA, operation and maintenance of records to substantiate an outstanding supervised agricultural experience program through which a member has exhibited comprehensive planning, managerial and financial expertise, have earned and productively invested a specific amount of both time and money.

The American FFA Degree is a sign of great accomplishment among FFA members. Only a small percentage of FFA members ever earn the degree (the greatest percentage of members ever to receive the degree in one year was less than one half of one percent).

FFA members who qualify for the American FFA Degree:

- Have received a Greenhand FFA Degree, Chapter FFA Degree and State FFA Degree.
- Have been an FFA member for at least three years.
- Have completed at least three years (540 hrs.) of high school agriculture classes, or 2 years of high school agriculture classes and one year of college agriculture classes (360 hrs.)
- Have graduated from high school one year prior to the National FFA Convention at which their degree will be awarded.
- Have maintained detailed SAE records, which demonstrate outstanding planning, managerial and financial skills.
- A student after entering agricultural education must earn at least \$10,000 and productively invested \$7,500 or have earned and productively invested at least \$2,000 and worked 2,250 unpaid hours more than scheduled class time; Any combination of hours, times a factor of 3.56 plus actual dollars earned and productively invested must be equal to or greater than \$10,000. Hours used to produce earnings reported as productively invested income shall not be duplicated as hours of credit to meet the minimum requirements for the degree.
- Have a record of outstanding leadership skills. Have completed at least 50 hours of community service within at least three different community service activities. These hours are in addition to the paid or unpaid supervised agricultural experience hours.
- Have a record of outstanding leadership skills.
- Have a record of participating in community service activities. Updated Community Service Requirements: Have completed at least 50 hours of community service within at least three different community service activities. These hours are in addition to the paid or unpaid supervised agricultural experience hours.
- Have maintained a “C” grade average or better.



## **Stars Divisions**

**Star in Production:** Outstanding achievement in an entrepreneurial production agriculture SAE and active participation in the FFA.

**Star in Agri-Business:** Outstanding achievement in an entrepreneurial agribusiness SAE that focus on agricultural sales, service, or other entrepreneurial endeavors along with active participation in the FFA (All horticultural enterprises fall under agribusiness even if they are production oriented).

**Star in Agricultural Placement:** Outstanding achievement in an employment SAE, these can include work-based learning, along with an active participation in the FFA.

**Star in Agri-Science:** Outstanding achievement in an SAE where the student's SAE programs are aimed at developing higher order scientific knowledge and skills along with active participation in the FFA.

## **Additional Information**

Members wishing to apply for a star award above the chapter level, must apply for their Greenhand, Chapter, State or American degree using the corresponding application on Judging Card/ The Agriculture Experience Tracker (TheAET.com). The Star Application must be attached (this is the original Star Battery). Those wishing to apply for the star award at the chapter level should check with the chapter advisor for details.

Star awards are given at the district, area, and state levels. Applicants must have been selected as a star winner from the previous level to advance to the next level. Check with your chapter's advisor regarding deadlines for application. Applicants advancing to the state level interview must submit one copy of the entire application to the state award and degree selection site.

All Texas FFA Star award finalists are recognized during convention on stage and presented with a state finalist plaque. The winner is announced then and presented with a \$1,000 Dina Wallrath Robertson Memorial Star Award and an additional plaque.

All students who are applying for the Lone Star FFA Degree and star awards at all degree levels should use the American Degree application form. Applications should include the latest check sheets, which can be downloaded below. We recommend that you download these documents and compare them against the check sheets presented at your degree check. Have teachers replace them as needed.

## Proficiency Overview

The Agricultural Proficiency Awards program encourages members to set personal goals and learn practical skills. The program provides recognition to FFA members at the local, state, and national levels for exceptional accomplishments and excellence in their Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) program. There are fifty-one proficiency award areas that individuals can apply for, ranging from Agricultural Communications to Wildlife Production and Management.

Members may apply for proficiency awards during or within one year after graduation from high school. At minimum, applicants must have kept one full calendar year's worth of records as an FFA member to apply for any proficiency award above the chapter level. Proficiency application must advance through district, area, and state level competition to reach national. Check with your local advisor to determine local application deadlines.

Proficiency awards will be judged by the following criteria:

- Skills and competencies learned that relate to an agricultural career field.
- Financial achievements, including growth in scope.
- Personal growth and development through FFA activities.
- Evidence of student accomplishments based on available resources and opportunities.
- Communication skills as demonstrated in the written portions of applications and clear, concise answers given during interviews. (Note: No personal interviews at the state level.)

## Recognition

**Chapter:** Certificate and Medal received at chapter awards program. (Sponsor: National FFA Foundation)

**District:** Recognition varies. A certificate and/or plaque presented at the District Banquet or Convention.

**Area:** Recognition varies. A certificate and/or plaque presented at the Area Banquet or Convention.

**State:** \$1,000 scholarship and plaque presented at the Texas FFA Convention (Sponsor: Texas FFA Foundation)

**National Finalist:** \$250 cash award, National Finalist plaque presented at National FFA Convention (Sponsor: National FFA Foundation)

# Local Scholarship Opportunities

- Local scholarship opportunities are available through the high school counseling office.
- The Pearland Livestock Show and Career Expo (PLSCE) provides scholarship opportunities. Please read the PLSCE application rules for details. The application is located on the district's CTE website.

## Texas FFA Scholarships

### Overview

Thanks to the generosity of scholarship donors, the Texas FFA will award more than 140 scholarships to outstanding graduating seniors through its academic scholarship program. These scholarships are based on academic and FFA achievements and the member's performance in an interview process.

PH 22.4 (a) (10) Candidates who receive a Terry Foundation Scholarship are NOT eligible to receive a Texas FFA Academic Scholarship.

## Texas FFA College Scholarship Eligibility and Requirements

### Texas FFA Association Policy Handbook

#### Section 22.4: Candidate Eligibility and Application Requirements

1. To be eligible to apply for a Texas FFA College Scholarship, an applicant must:
  - a. be an active member of the Texas FFA Association for the current year and at least two of the three previous years, listed on the State FFA Roster, and be in good standing with the Texas FFA Association.
  - b. be a U.S. citizen. If the applicant's transcript reflects a place of birth other than the United States, proof of naturalization must be shown to a high school record official (principal, counselor, registrar, etc.) or the agricultural science teacher, who will then verify it as part of the application.
  - c. declare intent to attend a Texas college or university in the fall semester of the application year.
  - d. be a current year graduating senior.
  - e. upon graduation, have completed at least three (3) academic calendar years and at least five (5) different semesters of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources instruction during grades 9 through 12. Course credits received through Credit by Examination shall not count towards satisfying the five (5) different semesters of instruction. All AFNR courses taken in one semester shall be counted as one semester of instruction.
  - f. score at least 1000 on the SAT or at least 19 on the ACT.
  - g. be in the top 50% of his/her class, based on scholastic rank, for the first three and one-half (3.5) years of high school for all scholarships, except the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo and Wallrath Educational Foundation which require that the student be in the top 25% and Rodeo Austin, which requires that the student be in the top 15%.

- h. be present in Official FFA Dress (according to Texas Standards) at all scholarship interviews (district, area, and state).
  - i. submit the most current Texas FFA Scholarship Application.
  - j. Not receive more than \$90,000 total from financial aid or any other scholarships if selected to receive any Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo Scholarship and remain eligible to receive the HLSR Show scholarship. Applicants must list all financial aid and scholarships for which they have applied and the status of those awards as part of the application. If selected as a finalist for an HLSR scholarship, the applicant will be notified and must verify all other financial aid and scholarships received. Other financial aid or scholarships received will be verified by submission of award letters from individual donors and financial aid offices of the college/university the recipient will attend. Funds will not be disbursed without such verification.
  - k. Pursuant to HLSR policy, a student who has already received a \$20,000 HLSR scholarship from ANY HLSR scholarship program will not be eligible for the HLSR four-year scholarship through the Texas FFA scholarship selection process.
2. Candidates who receive a Terry Foundation Scholarship are NOT eligible to receive a Texas FFA Academic Scholarship.
  3. Scholarship candidates who have advanced to the state scholarship selection process in the Texas FFA Scholarship program are not eligible to compete for the Ryan Mott Scholarship.
  4. All scholarship recipients MUST BE PRESENT in Official FFA Dress (according to Texas Standards) at the State FFA Convention scholarship sponsors' dinner and the awards ceremony to receive an FFA scholarship. The Texas FFA Association must approve any exceptions. Petitions for exceptions resulting from extenuating circumstances must be filed with the Texas FFA Executive Director no later than July 1. Texas FFA reserves the right to verify identity of interviewees and recipients.
  5. The Texas FFA College Scholarship Application must:
    - a. be completed and submitted through the student's online roster account.
    - b. contain all requested signatures and uploaded documents.
    - c. contain no supplemental pages that are not requested.
    - d. be accompanied by the student's official transcript for the first three and one-half (3.5) years, which is signed by a school record official (principal, counselor, registrar, etc.) Applicant must provide official college entrance exam scores that are either attached to the official high school transcript or submitted via an official online report which displays the student's first and last name.

# National FFA Scholarships

## Overview

Through the National FFA Foundation, businesses and individuals support scholarships are awarded to students with a wide variety of higher education plans and career goals. Whether you are planning to attend a specialized training program or seeking a four-year degree, the National FFA Scholarship Program has opportunities for all.

Scholarships support FFA high school seniors, collegiate members, and non-FFA members. Just one application is required for multiple scholarship opportunities totaling close to \$2 million.

The selection process considers the whole student - FFA involvement, work experience, Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE), community service, leadership skills and academics.

## FFA Officers and Election Process

Chapter officers serve as a vital function in FFA. By taking a major leadership role, chapter officers grow from the experience and benefit the chapter. It should be the officers' goal to lead by example and encourage other members to participate in chapter activities.

The Officer Election Process and Expectations can be found in the Officer Election Packet that will be available in the Spring semester of the school year.

## Parent Responsibilities and Expectations

To help promote teamwork, good showmanship, and success, parental assistance of the FFA competition and livestock teams is important and valued. Parents are expected to comply with the following:

- Review competition and show team guidelines, show rules, and contents of the "PISD FFA Handbook" with your child.
- Ensure your child accurately completes and submits all registration paperwork and other required forms on time.
- Refrain from the use of tobacco, vapes, alcohol, profanity, and prohibited items at all FFA competitions and/or livestock events.
- Support the decisions and instructions given by FFA advisors, show judges, and other officials at all FFA sponsored events.
- Provide positive support for your child and treat others with courtesy and respect.
- Ensure that your child is on time for all required meetings.
- Ensure that your child complies with all PISD district policies.
- Provide transportation and accommodation for your child, and animal if necessary.

- Ensure child’s animal is validated and all validation rules have been followed. It is the parent's responsibility to check for validation accuracy.
  - Understand and comply with the rules and policies prescribed by all campuses, districts, show agencies and the “Pearland ISD FFA Student Handbook” and “Pearland ISD Ag Facility Handbook.” Stock shows and other FFA events are an extension of school grounds at any school sponsored event. Adults are not allowed to consume or have in their possession alcoholic beverages in or around the primary/general areas of the livestock show team, including animal pens.
  - Understand and respect that parents/students may be asked to leave any PISD sponsored event for inappropriate misconduct, aggressive or disrespectful behavior towards advisors, other parents, students, or any behavior that brings discredit to Pearland ISD FFA.
- 
- Problems/concerns that may arise will follow the Pearland ISD FFA chain of command:
    1. The problem/concern must first be communicated to the AST over the specific species.
    2. If the problem is not resolved at the first level, a meeting will be held with the lead AST.
    3. Any concern not resolved by the lead AST should be communicated to the appropriate campus/administrative office.
  - Understand and respect that ASTs reserve the right to dismiss any student from a competition team or team based on eligibility, behavior, or improper care of animal.

## **Amendments**

The CTE Director has the authority to change or amend the contents of this document without notice. This document is maintained by the CTE department and reviewed annually.

## PEARLAND FFA

Revised September 2016

### PEARLAND HIGH SCHOOL DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE/AGRIBUSINESS

#### Article I - NAME AND PURPOSE

Section A: The name of this organization shall be the "Pearland Chapter of The FFA." The letters "FFA" may be used to designate the chapter, its activities, or members thereof.

Section B: The purposes for which this chapter has been formed are as follows:

1. To develop competent, aggressive agricultural leaders.
2. To develop an awareness of the global importance of agriculture and its contribution to our well-being.
3. To strengthen the confidences of agriculture students in themselves and their work.
4. To promote the intelligent choice and establishment of an Agriculture career.
5. To stimulate development and encourage achievement in individual agricultural experience programs.
6. To improve the economic, environmental, recreational and human resources to the community.
7. To develop competencies in communications, human relations and social abilities.
8. To develop character, train for useful citizenship, and foster patriotism.
9. To build cooperative attitudes among agricultural students.
10. To encourage wise management of resources.
11. To encourage improvement in scholarship.
12. To provide organized recreational activities for agricultural students.

#### Article II - ORGANIZATION

Section A: The Pearland Chapter of FFA is a chartered local unit of The Texas FFA Association which is chartered by the National FFA Organization.

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

### Article III - MEMBERSHIP

Section A: Membership in the chapter shall be of two kinds: (1) Active and (2) Honorary, as defined by the National FFA Constitution.

Section B: The regular work of this chapter shall be carried on by the active membership.

Section C: Honorary membership in this chapter shall be limited to the Honorary Chapter FFA Degree.

Section D: Active members in good standing may vote on all business brought before the chapter. An active member shall be considered in good standing if they:

1. Attend local Chapter meetings with reasonable regularity.
2. They show an interest in and take part in the affairs of the chapter.
3. Pay their dues regularly.
4. Abide by the FFA Code of Ethics.
5. Enroll and attend one agriculture science class sometime during the school year, either one semester class or one full year class to hold FFA eligibility and participation.

### Article IV - EMBLEMS

Section A: The emblem of the FFA shall be the emblem for the Chapter.

Section B: Emblems used by the members shall be uniform and those obtained from concerns officially designated by the national FFA Organization.

### Article V - ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP DEGREES AND PRIVILEGES

Section A: There shall be four degrees of active membership in the Chapter. These degrees are (1) The Greenland FFA Degree, (2) The Chapter FFA Degree, (3) Lone Star FFA Degree, and (4) American FFA Degree.

#### Section B: GREENHAND: MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS FOR ELECTION

1. Be regularly enrolled in a class in Agricultural Education class, and have satisfactory plans for a supervised experiences program.
2. Learn and explain the FFA creed, motto, and FFA Mission Statement.
3. Describe and explain the meaning of the FFA emblem and colors.
4. Demonstrate knowledge of the FFA Code of Ethics and explain proper use of the FFA Jacket.
5. Demonstrate knowledge of the history of the organization, the chapter constitution and bylaws and the chapter program of activities.
6. Personally own or have access to Official FFA Manual.



## Section C: CHAPTER FFA: MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS FOR ELECTION

1. Must have received the Greenhand FFA Degree.
2. Must have satisfactorily completed at least 180 hours of systematic instruction in Agricultural Education at or above the ninth grade level and have in operation an approved supervised agricultural experience program and be enrolled in an agricultural science program.
3. Have participated in the planning and conducting of at least 3 official functions in the chapter Program of Activities.
4. Have earned and productively invested at least \$150 by the members own efforts or worked at least forty five hours in excess of scheduled class time, or combination thereof, and have developed plans for continued growth and improvement.
5. Have effectively lead a group discussion for 15 minutes.
6. Have demonstrated five procedures of parliamentary law.
7. Show progress toward individual achievement in the FFA Award Program.
8. Have a satisfactory scholastic record.

Section D: STATE FFA DEGREE – Qualifications for the State FFA Degree are those set forth in the Constitution of the State Association.

Section E: AMERICAN FFA DEGREE - Qualifications for the American FFA Degree are those set forth in the Constitution of the National FFA Association.

## Article VI - OFFICERS

Section A: The officers of the chapter shall be as follows: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Reporter, Sentinel, and Student Advisor. The advisor shall be the teachers of Agricultural Science in the school where the chapter is located. Officers shall perform the usual duties of the respective officers as listed in the Official FFA Manual.

Section B: Officers shall be elected annually.

Section C: The officers of the chapter together with the chairmen in charge of the major sections of the annual program of activities shall constitute the Chapter Executive Committee. The Executive Committee shall have full power to act as necessary for the Chapter in accordance with actions taken at chapter meetings and various regulations or by-laws adopted from time to time.

Section D: Honorary members shall not vote nor shall they hold any office in the chapter except that of advisor.

Section E: Chapter officers must hold the degree of the Greenhand Degree and have satisfactory scholastic standing and a commendable citizenship and conduct record.

## Article VII - MEETINGS AND CONVENTIONS

Section A: Regular Chapter meetings shall be held at least once a month during the school year at such time and place as is designated by the Chapter Executive Committee. Special meetings may be called at any time.

Section B: Standard meeting paraphernalia shall be used at each meeting. All regular meetings shall open and close with the official ceremonies. Parliamentary procedure shall be used in transacting all business at each meeting.

Section C: Delegates, as specified by the state constitution, may be named as necessary in order to have proper representation at various other FFA meetings within the state.

Section D: A majority of active members listed on the secretary's membership roll shall constitute a quorum, and a quorum must be present at any meetings at which business is transacted or a vote taken committing the chapter to any proposal or action.

## Article IX - AMENDMENTS

Section A: This constitution may be amended or changed at any regular chapter meeting by a two-thirds vote of the active membership present providing it is not in conflict with the State Association Constitution or that of the National Organization.

Section B: By-laws may be adopted to fill the needs of the chapter at any regular chapter meeting, by a two-thirds vote of the active members present providing such by-laws conflict in no way with the constitution and by-laws of either the State Association or the National Organization.

## **BY-LAWS TO LOCAL CONSTITUTION**

### **I. OFFICER ELECTIONS**

- A. The chapter officers will be composed of seven (7) active members and will carry out the official business of the chapter.
- B. Officers will be interviewed by a committee and given a score out of 100 scale, all of which are interviewed at the same day and appointed time that is arranged by the Advisor.
- C. Officers will take a written test over the Leadership Guide and FFA Manual. A score will be given from that test.
- D. Officers will be voted upon by the members attending the officer election meeting. A percent of votes will be converted to % for the scale of 100.
- E. The percentages that the interview, test and elections will be equal to figure on a 100 point scale. Top score will be president, second top Vice-president and so on until all 7 offices are filled.

### **II. OFFICER QUALIFICATIONS**

- A. All officer candidates are to know and agree to abide by the FFA Code of Ethics.
- B. All officer candidates are to have knowledge of The Mission and Strategies of the FFA Organization.
- C. All officer candidates are to have commendable citizenship and conduct records.
- D. All officer candidates shall have their official FFA dues paid.
- E. Officer candidates shall meet the following respective scholastic requirements:
  - (a) Chapter officer candidates must have an average of "B" or better in past Agricultural Science courses and have an overall average of "B" or better in courses taken the semester immediately preceding officer elections.
- F. All officer candidates are to have a sincere desire to carry out the duties of the office to which they are elected.
- F. All officers must agree to abide by the FFA Officer Agreement and sign a statement agreeing to abide by them.
- G. All officer candidates must be in the ninth grade or higher to participate in officer elections.

- III. Officers are to carry out their duties as outlined in the official FFA Manual and as assigned by the President and approved by the Advisors.

### **IV. TERM OF OFFICE**

A. The terms of office shall be for one year, ending after the newly elected officers are installed.

## V. REMOVAL FROM OFFICE

A. Officers may be removed from office for failing to meet the qualifications stated in the constitution and bylaws.

B. Officers must meet the same qualifications for holding office the second school semester as they did when elected; otherwise their term of office will expire.

C. An officer will be entitled to a full and impartial review and hearing by the executive committee. They may be temporarily or permanently dismissed from office. A decision will be based upon the facts.

D. Officers will sign and follow officer agreement for holding office. If they do not meet those requirements they can be removed.

## VI. GENERAL PROVISIONS CONCERNING OFFICERS AND MEMBERS

A. Membership may be temporarily or permanently denied for failure to abide by the code of Ethics or the Pearland ISD Code of Conduct.

## VII. OFFICIAL FFA CLOTHING AND ACCESSORIES

A. Each individual member takes upon themselves the responsibility of wearing official clothing and accessories with dignity and pride so as not to reflect any bad criticism upon himself, the school, the FFA Organization, or the Local chapter.

## VII. OFFICIAL FFA AND SCHOOL EQUIPMENT

A. All members will show pride in the FFA Organization in his/her school by properly caring for and using the facility, its equipment, and official paraphernalia in a proper, dignified manner.

## IX. PUBLIC RELATIONS BY INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS

Each individual FFA member is to realize that they are a personal representative of their school and FFA Chapter. The image of their school and chapter are reflected through and by them as an individual. Aim for and achieve excellence.

# OFFICER/CANDIDATE AGREEMENT/CONTRACT

Role of Pearland FFA Officers and Officer Candidates:

Chapter officers/candidates are required to perform on a vigorous and continuous basis. Therefore, it is necessary that those who aspire to become officers are highly qualified, motivated, able and willing to perform. Please read and study the major qualifications and prerequisites very closely. In order for present and future members of the Pearland FFA officer team, as well as Chapter Advisors and members-at-large, to have an understanding of the Chapter officers' role, the following major areas of responsibility are assumed by all elected Chapter officers:

1. The Chapter officer shall be a member of the board of student officers.
  - It shall be the duty of such board to advise and make recommendations to the Chapter.
  - Advisory Council with respect to the conduct of the activities and business of the organization.
2. The Chapter officer should be a disseminator of specific agricultural education and FFA information to the membership.
3. The Chapter officer should motivate, inspire and encourage FFA members to participate in agriculture education and FFA programs.
4. The Chapter officer shall maintain positive relationships with members, agribusiness organizations, educational organizations, the public and others interested in agricultural education.
5. The Chapter officer shall project a positive image as a leader among American youth.

## Section VII: PEARLAND FFA OFFICER CANDIDATE CONTRACT

As a Pearland FFA Officer/Candidate, I will:

1. Be dedicated and committed to FFA and the total agriculture education program.
2. Be willing to commit the entire year to Chapter officer activities.
3. Become knowledgeable of agriculture, agricultural education and the FFA.
4. Through preparation and practice, develop myself into an effective public speaker, and project a desirable image of the FFA at all times.
5. Regularly and on time write all letters, thank you notes, reports and other correspondence, which are necessary and desirable.
6. Accept and search out constructive criticism and evaluation of my total performance.
7. Be willing to take and follow instructions as directed by those responsible for me.

8. If removed from Pearland FFA office prior, I understand I will not be allowed to run for office in

Future at any level including District, Area, State, National.

9. Follow the State officer code of ethics (as adopted by the 1990-91 State Officer Team):

- a. To forgo all alcohol and tobacco while involved in official and unofficial FFA activities.
- b. To treat all FFA members equally by not favoring one over another.
- c. To conduct myself in a manner that commands respect without display of superiority.
- d. To maintain dignity while being personable, concerned and interested in my contacts with others.
- e. To avoid places or activities which in anyway would raise questions as to my moral character or conduct.
- f. To consider FFA officer activities and school as my primary responsibility.
- g. To use wholesome language in all speeches and informal conversations.
- h. To maintain proper dress and good grooming for all occasions.
- i. Work in harmony with fellow FFA officers, and not knowingly engage in conversations detrimental to other FFA members, officers and adults.
- j. To serve as a member of the officer team, always maintaining a cooperative attitude.
- k. To keep myself up to date on current events.
- l. Maintain and protect my health.
- m. To be a professional and be on time.

As a Pearland FFA Officer Candidate/Officer I understand my behavior is reflected on myself, my chapter, and other FFA members. I understand that my actions can affect my candidacy, future office, and/or present office.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date