

# The Constitution of the District XIII Council

## Preamble

We, the 4-H members of District XIII, in order to provide additional opportunities for personal development, leadership, citizenship, and growth, and to function as a tool of the 4-H program, do hereby establish this Constitution for the District XIII Council.

## ARTICLE I

### Name, Scope, Emblem, and Colors

- Section 1. Name and Scope: The name of this organization shall be the District XIII 4-H Council, an assembly of elected and appointed representatives who meet, discuss, plan, and help expedite the 4-H Program in the interest of membership.
- Section 2. Emblem: The four-leaf clover with the letter “H” in each of the leaflets representing equal training of the Head, Heart, Hands, and Health and signifying Good Luck and Achievement’ shall be the official emblem of the District XIII 4-H Council.
- Section 3. Colors: The 4-H Colors are green and white. The green represents nature’s most common color and is emblematic of youth, life, and growth. The white background symbolizes purity.
- Section 4. District Colors: The District XIII colors are royal blue and silver. The blue represents sky, since the sky’s the limit. Silver represents 4-Hers always striving to make the best better.

## ARTICLE II

### Objectives

To provide additional opportunities for personal development and to promote the 4-H throughout District XIII, the objectives of this Council shall be to:

- Section 1. Serve as a means of expression through responsible representation for District 13 Members.
- Section 2. Provide understanding and experience in applying the principles of representative government.
- Section 3. Provide effective means of communication within all phases of the 4-H District Council.

- Section 4. Serve as a means for improving and projecting a positive image of 4-H.
- Section 5. Encourage members to develop skills in communication and getting along with others.
- Section 6. Serve as an example of member involvement in planning and carrying out programs.
- Section 7. To provide visible leadership models for 4-H members.
- Section 8. To fulfill an advisory role in planning of District events and activities and to aid in the implementation of such programs, where applicable.

**ARTICLE III  
Membership**

- Section 1. Each County or area represented by an Extension Agent in District 13 with a 4-H Program shall be represented by three voting delegates selected from each county. Voting delegates shall be determined without regard to race, sex, color, national origin, handicap or religion.

**ARTICLE IV  
Meetings, Quorum, and Suffrage**

- Section 1. There shall be at least three meetings each year of the District Council which shall be held at the county in which the District President resides or unless voted by the District Council to meet otherwise.
- Section 2. Special meetings of the Council may be called by the President with the approval of the District Advisor(s).
- Section 3. One third (1/3) of the officially seated delegates or alternates shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at any meeting of the Council provided that at least one member from each of the counties with organized 4-H programs is represented.
- Section 4. Only officially seated delegates present at meetings of the Council may vote on proceedings. Alternates may vote only when officially seated and present in the absence of delegates.
- Section 5. Each county shall have three voting delegates, and may have a maximum of three votes and a minimum of one vote at each proceeding.

Section 6. District council advisor(s) shall serve in an advisory capacity only at meetings of the District Council. District council advisor(s) shall not have voting privileges at any assemblies of the District Council and/or its officers.

**ARTICLE V**  
**Officers: Procedure of Selections**

Section 1. The executive officers shall be elected.

Section 2. The elected officers of the Council shall be a President, a Vice-President, a Secretary, a Treasurer, Reporter, Sergeant-at-Arms, Historian, and a Parliamentarian.

Section 3. **Elected Officers.**

- a. The election of officers shall be by secret ballot vote of each delegate in the Council assembled.
- b. To be elected to an office, a candidate must receive a majority of the votes cast.
- c. The elected officers shall continue to fulfill those duties, district wide in nature, as directed in this Constitution, for one (1) year or until such time as their successors are designated.
- d. If the office of the President is permanently vacated, the Vice-President shall become the President.
- e. If any elected office other than the Presidency is vacated, a committee composed of the remaining elected officers and the district council advisor(s), with the President serving as Chairperson, shall appoint a District XIII Member to fill the vacated position. The Council may choose to leave the position vacated as well.
- f. Candidates may be elected for only one position, unless there are not enough qualified individuals to fulfill all of the positions.
- g. If no candidate receives a majority of votes cast, there shall be a runoff between the two candidates who received the most votes.
- h. If no candidate receives a majority of votes after two runoffs, a committee composed of the newly elected officers will convene to interview the officer candidates who have not received a majority of

votes. This committee will make the final decision on who will hold the offices in question.

- i. If no candidate for the office of president receives a majority of votes after 2 run offs, the vice president elect shall preside over the committee to decide who will become president.
- j. To run for an office, the individual shall have been an active 4-H member for at least two (2) years, including the current 4-H year. They shall have approval from parents or legal guardian and county agent and have attended at least three (3) District Council meetings.
- k. A District Council Candidate Form must be completed and understood in its entirety, in order to run for a position.
- l. District officers will be required to attend two thirds (2/3) of all District meetings.

## **ARTICLE VI**

### **Judicial Procedures**

- Section 1. Disciplinary actions shall be taken against any individual not adhering to the established regulations, or exhibiting undesirable behavior while functioning as a representative of the District Council.
- Section 2. Any District 4-H Council Officer, whose behavior requires discipline, while functioning as a District Council Representative, shall be brought before the review board. The decision of what the punishment is will be left to the review board
- Section 3. The Review Board shall consist of four (4) District Council members, with three (3) being District Council officers, one (1) Adult Representative and the District Council Advisor.
- Section 4. Any decision made by the Review Board may be appealed to the District Council within thirty (30) days of notification of the Board's decisions.

## **ARTICLE VII**

### **District Council and Officers**

- Section 1. District XIII shall appoint three (3) members to the State Executive Board. They shall be the President, Vice President and Secretary. They must serve for their respective term on the State Executive Board.

- Section 2. The District Council shall also elect two (2) alternates to serve in the absence of any of the District Representatives. The alternates must be in High School and/or fourteen (14)
- Section 3. When the District President assumes office, he/she must release a copy of addresses, telephone numbers, email addresses, and fax, if applicable, of all District Officers.
- Section 4. The requirements to run for President, Vice President or Secretary are as follows: A letter of recommendation from their county agent and/or district advisor, as well as a parental consent. They must be in High school and/or over the age of fourteen (14).
- Section 5. If anytime in the future the State allows more than three (3) delegates to attend the State Executive Boards, then the District Council shall appoint the remaining delegate(s).
- Section 5. The District Council may require its officers such duties as are found necessary and appropriate, provided that such duties do not conflict with those required by this Constitution.

**ARTICLE VIII**  
**Amendments**

- Section 1. In order to vote on an amendment, it must be brought and read at the previous District Council Meeting.
- Section 2. A proposed amendment becomes Constitutional upon vote of two-thirds (2/3) majority of the officially seated delegates.
- Section 3. Any of the constitutional rules may be amended or overridden until the end of the meeting by a unanimous vote of the district council and an approval of the district adviser.

Revised and Approved: April 21, 2009