

District 5 4-H Bylaws



1. **NAME:** The name of this organization shall be the East District 5 4-H Council.
2. **PURPOSE:** The purpose shall be to promote and encourage 4-H and youth development and to coordinate 4-H activities in the district; and to provide opportunities for assuming delegated responsibilities as representatives of county and district councils, standing committees or special committees.
3. **MEMBERSHIP:** Membership is open to all youth irrespective of race, color, disability or national origin and shall consist of two (2) voting delegates from each county 4-H council and the District 4-H Council Executive Board. Members shall be at least 14 as of August 31 of the calendar year they are elected/appointed.

Each county is encouraged to have (2) alternate delegates to attend and participate in District Council activities in the absence of the regular delegates.

4. **OFFICERS:** Officers shall be a president, 1st vice president, 2nd vice president, 3rd vice president, secretary, public relations chairman and parliamentarian, each of which will be elected without regard to sex. Three delegates will be elected to the Texas 4-H Council annually, one will be a minority representative. (See Representation on Texas 4-H Council)

ELIGIBILITY FOR OFFICE: To be eligible for district office: (a) Candidates must be between the ages of 16 and 18 as of August 31 of the calendar year of the election; (b) Candidates shall be a member of their county 4-H council and recommended by their County Extension Agent; (c) They shall have at least one more year of high school remaining; (d) They must have at least 3 years of 4-H club membership, including the current year; (e) Candidate must live within the boundaries of the District or within ten miles of the county of which he/she is a 4-H member.

TERM OF OFFICE: Officers shall be elected at the annual meeting. Officers are eligible to serve 2 years as a district council officer. The president, 1st vice president, and 2nd vice president may serve only 1 year in any of those offices. No more than two officers shall be elected from the same county. Term of office shall be from time of installation until installation the following year. Vacancies shall be filled by the Executive Board or by election; decision to be made by the Executive Board.

5. **REPRESENTATION ON TEXAS 4-H COUNCIL:** President, 1st vice president and 2nd vice president shall serve as delegates to the Texas 4-H Council. Persons considering these offices should be willing to represent the district at the Texas 4-H Council Workshop, Texas 4-H Congress, and the State Fair of Texas Honor Award Dinner. These responsibilities are in addition to District Council meetings and district events. In the event the designated delegates cannot participate in the Texas 4-H Council Workshop, an alternate shall be designated in line of succession from the Executive Board. Any alternate who attends the Texas 4-H Council Workshop becomes the officially recognized delegate from the district and will fulfill Texas 4-H Council duties throughout the year. This alternate must meet the requirements for Texas 4-H Council membership.

East District 5 is authorized to elect three delegates to serve on the Texas 4-H Council annually. To assure minority participation, one of the three delegates must represent a racial ethnic minority.

6. **ELECTION PROCEDURE:** (a) Candidates for district offices should complete one copy of the Application/Nomination Form for East District 5 4-H Council Office and the one page leadership history; (b) Forms should be returned to the District Office ten (10) days prior to the date of the annual meeting; (c) All applicants (if eligible according to standing rules) will be presented as candidates for the office(s) they choose; (d) All eligible applicants will be introduced and allowed the opportunity to give a three (3) minute campaign address; (e) Applicants will also be given three (3) minutes to prepare and present an answer to a given question; (f) Applicants will be involved in an interview process where interviewers will score the candidate on interview talents (speaking, thinking, composure); (g) Candidates will be limited to one (1) 22x28 inch poster (regular size) for campaigning purposes; no handouts of any kind, size, shape, taste or color will be permissible; (h) Popular election will be by secret ballot.

Each piece of the election process will be scored and used to elect the District 5 officer team. The four pieces of the election process will provide a percentage of the total score. Popular election - 50%; Interview - 35%; Leadership history - 10%; Question answer - 5%

7. **ANNUAL MEETING:** An annual meeting shall be held during District Leadership Lab prior to the Texas 4-H Council Workshop. Officers and committee chairmen shall give reports for the work that has been done during their term of office at the annual meeting. Standing rules shall be reviewed, revised as necessary and adopted. Additional meetings of the District 4-H Council will be called as necessary by the Executive Board.
8. **EXECUTIVE BOARD:** The Executive Board shall be composed of the elected officers of the District Council. Meetings of this group may be called by the president and/or advisors, as necessary.
9. **STANDING COMMITTEES:** Standing committees shall be composed of the elected officers of the District Council. Meetings of this group may be called by the president and/or advisors, as necessary.
10. **ADDITIONAL COMMITTEES:** Additional committees may be appointed at any time by the Executive Board.
11. **VOTING BODY:** The voting body shall consist of membership as defined in Rule 3.
12. **QUORUM:** A quorum shall consist of 23 voting members. In this number, at least 12 counties shall be represented.
13. **AMENDMENTS:** These rules may be amended by a two-thirds vote at any regular meeting as long as prior notice has been given.

RESOLUTION.....

Be it resolved by the District 4-H Council that no member of the council shall consume alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs while traveling to or from any 4-H activity, while participating in 4-H activities, or while representing East District 5 4-H Council. In the event a District Council member violates this resolution, disciplinary action will be taken by the Executive Board with District Extension Directors and Extension Program Specialist 4-H & Youth Development serving as advisors.