

**SOUTHEAST DISTRICT 9 4-H COUNCIL**  
**STANDING RULES**  
**(Revised 08-15-09)**

1. NAME

The name of this organization shall be the Southeast District 4-H Council.

2. PURPOSE

The purpose shall be to develop leadership, to promote and encourage 4-H work and to coordinate 4-H activities in the district.

3. MEMBERSHIP

A. Membership in the Southeast District 4-H Council is open to all youth, irrespective of race, color, national origin or disability and shall consist of two voting delegates from each county and the Executive Committee of the District 4-H Council. In the event a regularly elected voting delegate cannot serve, an alternate may be selected by the county concerned with the alternate having all rights and privileges of a regularly elected voting delegate.

B. Members shall be at least 14 and not 19 years of age by August 31 of the year in which they are installed and have at least three years of 4-H club membership, including the current year.

C. The term of office of District 4-H Council members shall be from July 1 of the current year to June 30 of the next year.

4. OFFICERS

The officers of the Southeast District 4-H Council shall be: Chairman, 1st Vice-Chairman, 2nd Vice-Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Public Relations Chairman, Parliamentarian, Historian, Health and Safety Officer, and Delegate At Large.

Southeast Extension District 9 will select a minority to fill the position of Delegate At Large, if neither the District 9 Council Chairman nor 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chairman is an ethnic minority. If the District 4-H Council is unable to fill this position from its membership, then the District will forfeit its opportunity for multi-ethnic delegate representation until the next term. The Delegate At Large will represent District 9 on the Texas 4-H Council, if the Chairman or 1st Vice Chairman is not an ethnic minority.

A. The Chairman, 1st Vice-Chairman, and Delegate at Large must be 16 years of age

and not be 19 years of age before August 31 of the year they are installed.

- B. All officers shall have at least one year left in high school.
- C. All officers must be District 4-H Council Members. All candidates must have attended a District 4-H Council meeting of the current year. They do not have to attend as a voting delegate from their respective county.
- D. An officer is not eligible to serve in the same office for consecutive terms.
- E. Candidates for office shall be members of their County 4-H program, be recommended by their County Extension Agent, and have served a term of office on their County's Council, TASK Force, or Ambassador Program.
- F. Persons considering the offices of Chairman and 1st Vice-Chairman or those officers representing the Southeast District on the Texas 4-H Council, should be willing to represent the Southeast District at the Texas 4-H Council Workshop (Texas 4-H Congress in even years) and the State Fair of Texas Honor Awards Banquet. These responsibilities are in addition to the two district council meetings and other District 4-H events and activities.
- G. There shall be no more than two officers from any one county. The Chairman, 1st Vice Chairman, and Delegate at Large can not be from the same county.

5. TERM OF OFFICE

Officers shall be elected annually. Their term shall be from July 1 to June 30.

6. ANNUAL MEETING AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Officers shall be elected at District 4-H Leadership Lab. The time and place will be determined by the Executive Committee working with the District Extension Administrator, 4-H Specialist and Agent Advisors. Officers and committee chairmen shall give reports of work that has been done during their term of office. Standing rules shall be read, considered, revised as needed and adopted.

Election Procedure:

- A. The election procedure will focus on a 200 point system including an evaluation of information within the Officer Application Form and/or 4-H Recordbook (50 points), interview (50 points), and popular vote (100 points).
- B. Candidates for District Offices should complete one copy of the Officer Application

Form. In addition, officer applicants may submit their 4-H Recordbook. Submission of the 4-H Recordbook is not required.

- C. The form and recordbook should be returned to the District Office by the due date set.
- D. Information about each applicant (or copies of the Officer Application Form) will be sent to all council members.
- E. The Officer Application Forms and 4-H Recordbooks will be reviewed by an appointed committee of county Extension agents prior to the popular voting. A point value up to 50 points will be assigned to each form/recordbook. The point value will be based on leadership, 4-H involvement and experiences, creativity and organization, and community service.
- F. Interviews with all applicants will be conducted at 4-H Leadership Lab and prior to the popular voting. The interviews will be conducted by a panel of judges and interview questions will be developed from information within the Officer Application Form and 4-H Recordbook.
- G. A point value up to 50 points will be assigned to each interview. The point value will be based on enthusiasm, personality, dedication to 4-H, communication skills, confidence, attitude, poise, willingness to work as a team, and knowledge of the 4-H program.
- H. All applicants (if eligible according to standing rules) will be presented at the District 4-H Leadership Lab.
- I. All eligible applicants will be introduced and allowed the opportunity to give a three minute speech focusing on 4-H.
- J. All eligible applicants will be allowed an opportunity to respond to an impromptu question during the District 4-H Leadership Lab and prior to county caucuses.
- K. Counties will caucus during the District 4-H Leadership Lab to determine who to vote for in the various offices. The members of the county caucus should consider the applicants' displays, speeches, applications and impromptu responses in determining applicants for various offices.
- L. Election will be by secret ballot.
- M. The number of votes for each candidate for each office will be multiplied by an equalizing factor to determine a point value up to 100 points. These points will be

added to the record form and interview points to determine total points. The individual with the highest points will be elected to the specified office.

- N. In case of a tie, there will be a runoff between the candidates with the highest number of points. The chairman's vote will be reserved as a tie breaker.
- O. Each county may send only 3 candidates. In the event that there are more than 3 who wish to run, then 3 candidates should be chosen through a preliminary election within the county.
- P. The voting order for District 4-H Council Officers is Chairman, 1st Vice-Chairman, Delegate At Large, 2nd Vice-Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Public Relations Chairman, Parliamentarian, Historian, and Health and Safety Officer.

#### 7. MONEY RECEIVED AND PAID OUT

The treasurer shall make a treasurer's report at each meeting and at any other time upon request of the chairman of the council. The money shall be kept in one bank in the district, the withdrawal of which will be supervised by the District Extension Administrator and 4-H Specialist.

#### 8. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Executive Committee shall be composed of the Chairman, 1st Vice-Chairman, 2nd Vice-Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Public Relations Chairman, Parliamentarian, Historian, Health and Safety Officer, and Delegate At Large.

#### 9. STANDING COMMITTEES

Standing Committees shall be the District Roundup, District Food Show, District Fashion Show, and District Judging Contests. Committee membership shall consist of the Southeast District 4-H Council delegates. Members of the Executive Committee shall serve as Chairmen of the various committees.

#### 10. DELEGATES TO THE TEXAS 4-H COUNCIL

Delegates shall consist of the District 4-H Council Chairman and the 1st Vice-Chairman.

- A. Delegate(s) may serve for one year only on the Texas 4-H Council.
- B. Delegates to the Texas 4-H Council must (1) reach their 16th birthday and (2) must not have reached their 19th birthday on or before August 31 of the calendar year in which they are installed on the Texas 4-H Council.
- C. In the event a delegate(s) must resign, cannot complete or has already served a term

on the Texas 4-H Council, the order of succession will be Chairman, 1st Vice-Chairman, 2nd Vice-Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer followed by the Public Relations Officer.

11. MEETINGS

There will be not less than two meetings during the year. The Executive Committee working with the District Extension Administrator, 4-H Specialist, and Agent Advisors will set the dates for additional meetings, as necessary.

12. VOTING BODY

The voting body shall consist of the members as defined in Rule 3.

13. QUORUM

The quorum shall consist of 50% + 1 of the voting members present. Ten counties shall be represented.

14. BYLAW AMENDMENT

These rules may be amended by majority vote of the members present and voting at any regular meeting of the District 4-H Council at which a quorum is present. Members shall be notified in writing at least seven days before the date on which the amendment is to be enacted.

15. SOUTHEAST DISTRICT 4-H COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Be it resolved by the Southeast District 4-H Council that no member of the council shall consume alcoholic beverages while traveling to and from or participating in 4-H activities. In the event a Southeast District 4-H Council member violates this resolution, disciplinary action will be taken by the Executive Committee with the District Extension Administrator and 4-H Specialist serving as advisors.

Revised - 08-15-09