

Texas 4-H Council Standing Rules

Youth involvement in program development at all levels is an essential aspect of successful 4-H programming. For this reason, the Texas 4-H Council provides for representative 4-H youth 16-19 years of age:

- the opportunity to provide input to the state Extension staff on programs for 4-H youth,
- to maintain linkage with District 4-H Councils,
- to assist with the development and implementation of state events and activities,
- to provide 4-H youth the opportunity to learn democratic principles and procedures, and
- to interpret the 4-H program to the public through effective and satisfying group organization.

The following standing rules adopted by the Texas 4-H Council members serve as guidelines for group procedures.

1. Name:

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

2. Purpose:

The purpose shall be to act as a sounding board to:

- Identify needs and interests of 4-H youth.
- Suggest and explore action programs that will meet the needs and interests of youth.
- Advise in the determination of future 4-H programs.
- Provide a youth voice and leadership team for Junior Leader Retreat, Texas 4-H Roundup, and Texas 4-H Congress.

3. MEMBERSHIP:

- a. The Texas 4-H Council membership is open to all youth irrespective of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, or genetic information. It consists of two member delegates from each District 4-H Council and elected delegates-at-large (see Sections 3f and 3g).
- b. Council members must be entering the 10th, 11th, or 12th grades and must be between the ages of 16 and 18 on August 31st of the calendar year in which they are installed on the Texas 4-H Council.
- c. Delegates shall be eligible to attain and hold membership on the Texas 4-H Council for only one year.
- d. District representatives must participate in the total Texas 4-H Council Workshop and training to be an official member of the Texas 4-H Council.
- e. District Councils may select alternates to fulfill responsibilities of regularly elected delegates. Any alternate who attends the Texas 4-H Council Workshop becomes the official recognized delegate on the Council from his/her respective district and will fulfill Council duties throughout the remainder of the year. This alternate shall meet the requirements for the Council membership.

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- f. The twelve (12) District Councils have the opportunity to select a Delegate-at-Large on an annual basis to serve on the Texas 4-H Council.
- g. Delegates-at-Large represent District 4-H Councils as members of the Texas 4-H Council. The same standing rules for membership apply to all delegates. Efforts should be made to assure minority representation on the Texas 4-H Council. If District Councils do not elect at least one minority to fill the offices (usually President and Vice-President) that are representatives to Texas 4-H Council, they will select a minority to fill the position of Delegate-at-Large. If a District Council is unable to fill one of the three positions with a minority member, the District will forfeit its opportunity for the minority delegate representation for that year. Minority status is defined as 1/16th minority nationality.
- h. A Council member enrolling out of state or district of which they were elected/selected shall automatically relinquish his/her position on the Texas 4-H Council pending approval by council advisors.

4. OFFICERS:

- The officers shall be elected annually and shall be: President, two Vice-Presidents, Secretary, Public Relations Officer, and Health and Safety Officer. The Executive Committee shall appoint members as needed to fill vacancies in officer positions.

5. TERM OF OFFICE:

- Council members and officers shall serve from the time of installation until installation of new members and officers the following year. Officers shall be elected annually and shall be eligible for only one term of office. No person shall hold more than one office on the Texas 4-H Council.

6. TEXAS 4-H COUNCIL WORKSHOP AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

- Council Workshop shall be held as scheduled. Officers shall be elected at the workshop and will be nominated by ballot. Elections shall be by ballot. A majority constitutes an election. Each candidate may speak on the given topic and will have two (2) minutes total to prepare and offer remarks.

7. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

- The Executive Committee shall be composed of the officers and council advisors.

8. COMMITTEES:

- Committees may be appointed at any time by the Executive Committee.

9. VOTING BODY:

- The voting body shall consist of the members as defined in Rule 3, except in the election of officers. The two current participating delegate representatives will cast a single vote to be used in the event of a tie. In the event of a tie, each candidate will speak on a new topic. If another tie occurs, the sealed vote of the current council representatives will break the tie.

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10. QUORUM:

- A quorum shall be a simple majority of the membership representing at least seven different districts.

11. AMENDMENTS:

- Suggested/recommended amendments may be made at any regular meeting and approved with a two thirds vote but must have the approval of the state 4-H Program Director before amendments can be made to the by-laws.

12. REPRESENTATION REPORTS:

- Texas 4-H Council members who are designated as representatives of the council at various events will be responsible for submitting a written report of their participation in the event to the Texas 4-H Council Secretary or to the council advisors within two weeks after the event. These reports will become part of the official secretary's notebook.

13. TEXAS 4-H COUNCIL MEMBER BEHAVIOR:

- Texas 4-H Council members are required to follow the stated Texas 4-H and Youth Development Consequences of Misbehavior and Code of Conduct. If a Texas 4-H Council member is suspected of any illegal activity (consuming alcoholic beverages and/or illegal drugs, etc.) before or during any activity or while representing the Texas 4-H Council, he/she shall be subject to be sent home and/or to dismissal from the Texas 4-H Council at the discretion of the Executive Committee and/or council advisors.

14. COUNCIL DISSOLUTION:

- Upon the dissolution of the Council, all real property, including money, equipment and land, shall become the property of the Texas 4-H Program for care and distribution. The last official duty of the advisors shall be to effect the transfer of council property and to turn over all records to the State 4-H Office.

