

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 the group procedure:

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:
 - a. Identify needs and interests of 4-H youth.
 - b. Suggest and explore action programs that will meet the needs and interests of youth.
 - c. Advise in the determination of future 4-H programs.
3. **MEMBERSHIP:**
 - a. The Texas 4-H Council membership is open to all youth, irrespective of race, color, disability, sex, religion, or national origin. It consists of two member delegates from each District 4-H Council and elected delegates-at-large (see Sections 3e and 3f).
 - b. Council members must (1) reach their 16th birthday and (2) must not have reached their 19th birthday on or before 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 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 or her respective district and will fulfill Council duties throughout the remainder of the year. This alternate shall meet the requirements for the Council membership.

- e. 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.
 - f. 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. Districts will select a minority to fill the position of Delegate-at-Large, if neither the District Council President nor Vice- President is a minority. If a District Council is unable to fill this position from its membership, then the District will forfeit its opportunity for minority delegate representation until the next rotation. Also, the Delegate-at-Large must be 1/16th of a minority nationality.
 - g. A council member enrolling out of state or district of which they were elected/selected shall automatically relinquish his or 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, and Public Relations officer. The Executive committee shall appoint a Health/Safety Officer, Historian, and members to fill vacancies in other offices.
 5. TERM OF OFFICE: Council members shall serve from the time of installation until installation of 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. Each elected officer shall serve from the time of installation until the installation of officers the following year.
 6. TEXAS 4-H COUNCIL WORKSHOP AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS: Texas 4-H 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 one 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 President, the two Vice-Presidents, the Secretary and the Public Relations Officer. (The Executive Committee shall appoint a Health/Safety Officer and members to fill vacancies).
 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 delegate representatives will cast a single sealed 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.
10. QUORUM: A quorum shall consist of at least 16 voting members representing at least seven different districts.
11. AMENDMENTS: These rules may be amended by a two-thirds vote at any regular meeting.
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 members are required to follow the stated Texas 4-H Youth and 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 representation of 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 the council of property and to turn over all records to the State 4-H Office.