2020 District 5 4-H Council Officer Elections

**OFFICER ELECTIONS**

Officer elections of the District 5 4-H Council will be conducted during Leadership Lab. All candidates must complete an Officer Candidate Registration Form and submit it to the District office **no later than 5 pm on June 15th**. The form is attached and may also be downloaded from the District 5 4-H website at <http://d54-h.tamu.edu>

County Extension Agents should also make sure each officer candidate gets a copy of the District 5 4-H Council Officer Election Procedures. The election process will include popular vote speech (50 points), an interview (35 points), the application (10 points), and a question at the conclusion of the speech (5 points).

**Based on District 5 Council By-Laws:**

* Age of Officer Candidates: All officer candidates must be at least 16 years old as of August 31st of the calendar year in which they are installed as a district officer.
* Term of office: From date of installation to new Council officer elections on the following year.

**VOTING DELEGATES**

* Each county may have up to 2 voting delegates.

**CAMPAIGNING RULES**

* Candidates will be limited to one 22x28 inch poster (regular size) for campaigning purposes and must include a photograph (headshot) of the candidate.
* No handouts of any kind, shape, or size are permitted to be distributed in person, by mail or electronically.

**ELECTION PROCEDURES**

The election of District 5 4-H Council Officers will be broken down by the following categories and points:

Application: 10 points

Popular Vote Speech: 50 points

Interview: 35 points

Question: 5 points

100 maximum score

**Officer Application**

Candidates must complete a District 5 4-H Council Candidate Application by the announced deadline, listing activities, leadership, and community service. The interviewers will refer to this information during the interview. Application must be sent to Dr. Jheri-Lynn McSwain (District 5 4-H Specialist) at jlmcswain@ag.tamu.edu

**Popular Vote Speech**

Candidates have a maximum of 3 minutes to deliver the speech. Popular vote will be a secret ballot. Only designated voting delegates from each county will be allowed to vote. Candidates may vote if they are a designated voting delegate.

**Interview**

Applicants will be involved in an interview process where interviewers will score the candidate on interview talents (speaking, thinking, composure). Interviewers will be able to use candidates’ applications to ask questions.

**Question**

Applicants will also be given three (3) minutes to prepare and present an answer to a given question.

**PROCEDURE OF ELECTIONS**

At Leadership Lab (or other designated event), the district officer candidates will present a 3-minute (maximum time limit) speech to all voting delegates. The average of the judges scores will constitute the points given for the speech portion of the election process. The candidates will then be interviewed by a panel of judges. The average of the scores from the judges will constitute the points given for the interview and question portion of the election process.

The popular vote will be taken, one office/position at a time, in the following order:

* + Chairman
  + 1st Vice-Chairman
  + 2nd Vice-Chairman
  + 3rd Vice-Chairman
  + Secretary
  + Treasurer
  + Public Relations Chair
  + Parliamentarian

The number of votes received during the popular vote will be recorded for each candidate. This number will be added to the pre-determined application, interview, and question scores. The candidate with the highest number of points in the second round of the popular vote will be announced as Chairman.

The popular vote for the 1st Vice-Chairman will be conducted next. The number of votes received during the popular vote will be recorded for each remaining candidate. This number will be added to the predetermined application, interview, and question scores. The candidate with the highest number of points in the second round of the popular vote will be announced as 1st Vice-Chairman.

This procedure will continue until all offices have been filled.

**OFFICER EXPECTATIONS**

Council Officers are REQUIRED to participate in the following events and/or activities and provide leadership. **If you cannot make the mandatory events, please do not run for office. Exceptions will be considered, if provided in writing, to the District Council advisors a minimum of two weeks in advance of the scheduled event.**

* + July 2020 Texas 4-H Council Retreat (only for Chair and 1st Vice-Chair)
  + July 2020 District 5 Council Retreat (day event to be scheduled)
  + August 2020 Leaders College
  + October 2020 Gold Star Banquet
  + November 2020 Yes Camp
  + Jan/Feb 2021 District 5 4-H Food Show and/or Food Challenge (those participating in

livestock shows/4-H events on these contests dates will be excused)

* + May 2021 District 5 Roundup
  + June 2021 Leadership Lab

**Council Officers will assist with 4-H Promotion**

* + The District Council will help to promote 4-H in the District. This might include a video of each council member talking about a project or planning a community service project for the district.
  + Assisting county 4-H programs - As a council representative you may be asked to come speak to a club in a neighboring county or do a leadership workshop for a county council in the District. This is part of being a leader in the district, and you should be prepared to assist if so able.

**COVID-19 ADJUSTMENTS**

In the event, we do not get to host Leadership Lab and have officer elections face-to-face, we will adapt our current procedures in the following manner to host elections. Counties will still be required to submit their 2 county delegates to the District office by the Leadership Lab deadline.

1. Application - officers will be required to email application to Jheri-Lynn McSwain [jlmcswain@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:jlmcswain@ag.tamu.edu)
2. Interviews- interviews will be conducted on Microsoft Teams or by phone with selected interviewers.
3. Speech and Question - speeches and question will be facilitated by the County Extension Agent. Speeches will be recorded via Microsoft Teams by the designated agent and posted on the D5 YouTube channel. All videos will be emailed to all designated county delegates.
4. Popular Vote – voting will take place via web (platform to be decided). Votes will be accepted from the list of delegates submitted by County Extension Agents. Votes will be tallied, and points distributed based upon the number of votes received.

The members of Texas A&M AgriLife will provide equal opportunities in programs and activities, education, and employment to all persons regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation or gender identity and will strive to achieve full and equal employment opportunity throughout Texas A&M AgriLife. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating

**PARTICIPATION VERTIFICATION FORM**

**Please complete and remit this form with your application.**

**CANDIDATE VERIFICATION**

If elected, I agree to fulfill my responsibilities to be the best of my ability and understand that I will be expected to participate in the events and activities listed above. Failure to attend will result in your eligibility to run for office the following year.

I also agree to abide by the listed rules for campaigning.

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Candidate Signature Date

**PARENT VERIFICATION**

I approve of my child’s interest in the District 5 Council office.

I support their involvement and will ensure that they are actively involved in the events and/or activities of District 5 Council.

I approve of the District 5 program posting their name, photo and contact information on their website in support of voting delegates wishing to make contact with candidates.

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Parent/Guardian Signature Date

**COUNTY EXTENSION AGENT VERIFICATION**

I verify that the following individual and parent/guardian understands the duties and responsibilities required for election to a District 5 Council officer position.

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County Extension Agent Signature Date