

Mount Baker FFA Chapter Constitution

ARTICLE I - Name, Mission and Strategies

Section A. The name of this organization shall be the Mount Baker FFA Chapter of the National FFA Organization.

Section B. The mission and strategies for this chapter are as follows:

FFA makes a **positive difference** in the lives of students by developing their potential for **premier leadership, personal growth** and **career success** through **agricultural education**.

1. Develops competent and assertive agricultural leadership.
2. Increases awareness of the global and technological importance of agriculture and its contribution to our well-being.
3. Strengthens the confidence of agriculture students in themselves and their work.
4. Promotes the intelligent choice and establishment of an agricultural career.
5. Encourages achievement in supervised agricultural experience programs.
6. Encourages wise management of economic, environmental and human resources of the community.
7. Develops interpersonal skills in teamwork, communications, human relations and social interaction.
8. Builds character and promotes citizenship, volunteerism and patriotism.
9. Promotes cooperation and cooperative attitudes among all people.
10. Promotes healthy lifestyles.
11. Encourages excellence in scholarship.

ARTICLE II - Organization

Section A. The Mount Baker FFA Chapter of FFA is a chartered local unit of the Washington Association of FFA which is chartered by the National FFA Organization.

Section B. This chapter accepts in full the provisions in the constitution and bylaws of the Association of FFA as well as those of the National FFA Organization.

ARTICLE III - Membership

Section A. Membership in this chapter shall be of three kinds: (1) Active; (2) Alumni; and (3) Honorary, as defined by the National FFA Constitution.

Section B. The regular activities of this chapter shall be carried on by the active membership.

Section C. Honorary membership in this chapter shall be limited to the Honorary Chapter FFA Degree.

Section D. Active members in good standing may vote on all business brought before the chapter. An active member shall be considered in good standing when:

1. While in school, be enrolled in at least one agricultural education course during the school year and/or follow a planned course of study. Either course must include a supervised agricultural experience program, the objective of which is preparation for an agricultural career.
2. Show an interest in the affairs of the organization by attending meetings, striving for degrees of membership, and participating in other organized activities of the chapter.
3. Pay all current state and national dues by the date determined by the chapter.
4. Display conduct consistent with the ideals and purposes of the National FFA Organization.

Section E. Names of applicants for membership shall be filed with the chapter officers and advisors.

ARTICLE IV - Emblems

Section A. The emblem of the FFA shall be the emblem for the chapter.

Section B. Emblems used by the members shall be designated by the National FFA Organization.

ARTICLE V - Degrees and Privileges of Active Membership

Section A. There shall be four degrees of active membership based on individual achievement. These degrees are: (1) Greenhand FFA Degree, (2) Chapter FFA Degree, (3) State FFA Degree, and (4) American FFA Degree. All "Greenhands" are entitled to wear the regulation bronze emblem pin. All members holding the Chapter FFA Degree are entitled to wear the regulation silver emblem pin. All members holding the State FFA Degree are entitled to wear the regulation gold emblem charm. All members holding the American FFA Degree are entitled to wear the regulation gold emblem key.

Section B. Greenhand FFA Degree. Minimum qualifications for election:
(Refer to National Constitution.)

1. Be enrolled in agricultural education and have satisfactory plans for a supervised agricultural experience program.
2. Learn and explain the meaning of the FFA Creed, Motto, and Salute.
3. Describe and explain the meaning of the FFA emblem and colors.
4. Demonstrate a knowledge of the FFA Code of Ethics and the proper use of the FFA jacket.
5. Demonstrate a knowledge of the history of the organization, the chapter constitution and bylaws, and the chapter Program of Activities.
6. Personally own or have access to the Official FFA Manual and the FFA Student Handbook.

Section C. Chapter FFA Degree. Minimum qualifications for election:
(Refer to National Constitution.)

1. Must have received the Greenhand FFA Degree.
2. Must have satisfactorily completed the equivalent of at least 180 hours of systematic school instruction in agricultural education at or above the ninth grade level, have in operation an approved supervised agricultural experience program and be enrolled in an agricultural education course.
3. Must have participated in the planning and conducting of at least three official functions in the chapter Program of Activities.
4. Must have earned and productively invested at least \$150 by the member's own efforts or worked at least forty-five hours in excess of scheduled class time, or a combination thereof, and have developed plans for continued growth and improvement in a supervised agricultural experience program.
5. Must have effectively led a group discussion for 15 minutes.
6. Must have demonstrated five procedures of parliamentary law.
7. Must show progress toward individual achievement in the FFA award programs.
8. Must have a satisfactory scholastic record.
9. Must submit a written application for the Chapter FFA Degree.

Section D. State FFA Degree. Minimum qualifications for selection:

1. Qualifications for the State FFA Degree are those set forth in the constitution of the state FFA association and National FFA Organization.

Section E. American FFA Degree. Minimum qualifications for selection:

1. Qualifications for the American FFA Degree are those set forth in the constitution of the National FFA Organization.

ARTICLE VI - State and Chapter Officers

Section A. The offices of an FFA chapter shall be: president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, reporter, and sentinel. Other officers may be elected as deemed appropriate by the local advisor and/or governing body. The teacher(s) of agricultural education shall be the FFA advisor(s). Chapter officers shall be elected annually by the members present during either the voting meeting or lunch ballot at school during the month of May.

ARTICLE VII - Dues

Section A. District dues are determined by the District 1 FFA and District 1 Agriculture Teachers. As of 1994 dues are \$2.00 per person and are included in the membership dues collection.

Section B. Full local, state and national dues shall be paid by all active members. As of 2006-2007 school year state and national dues are \$15.00, and \$2.00 for District 1 dues. Total dues is \$17 as of July 2006. This section can be changed by the FFA advisors in accordance with district, state, and national dues increases.

Section C. No member shall be considered as active and in good standing unless he/she pays full local, state and national FFA dues. Students who cannot afford the \$17 dues can inquire with school counselors or advisors about options for paying for dues.

ARTICLE VIII - Amendments

Section A. This constitution may be amended or changed at any regular chapter meeting by a two-thirds vote of the active members present providing it is not in conflict with the state association constitution or that of the National FFA Organization.

Section B. Bylaws may be adopted to fit the needs of the chapter at any regular chapter meeting by a two-thirds vote of the active members present providing such bylaws do not conflict in any way with the constitution and bylaws of either the state association or the national organization.

Bylaws of the Mount Baker FFA Chapter

Article I. Chapter Meetings

Section A. Activity period meetings will no longer be held as of the Fall of 2002. To replace these meetings, one pull-out meeting will be held in the fall, winter, and the spring to serve as a communication tool.

Section B. Meetings will be held on the third Wednesday of each month at 7:00 pm in Room 702. Any deviation of these dates will be noted on the school calendar or by notification on the daily announcements or via email and the web page.

Article II. Chapter Officer Elections

Section A. Elections will be held in May before the Annual FFA Banquet.

Section B.

1. Officer candidates will be required to turn in an application and participate in an interview.
2. Officer candidates will not run for a specific office, but may choose a preference as to officer position desired.
3. Officers will present a 1 minute speech at a general meeting held in May prior to the banquet to explain their goals, ideas, experience, etc. and position desired.
4. Election ballot will list the students' position desired.
5. Students will vote at the end of the candidate's speeches.

Section C.

1. Nominating Committee will consist of 6 chapter members and two advisors. Members will consist of outgoing officers or active members not running for office and will be chosen by the advisors.
2. Officer candidates are ranked by the following criteria:
 - FFA Chapter Activities – 10%

- will be assigned a score out of 20 points based on a curve with the highest candidate receiving 20 points. The rest will be based on a percentage of the highest candidate's points and assigned a score based on that percentage.
- Candidate Application – 20%
- Candidate Interview – 30%
- Membership Ranking Vote – 40%

Section D:

1. General membership election will be worth 40% of the candidates score.
2. Students rank only as follows:
 1. President
 2. Vice-President
 3. Secretary
 4. Treasurer
 5. Reporter
 6. Sentinel
3. Additional officer positions can be added each year at the discretion of the nominating committee.

Section E.

1. Only the top six officer candidates will fill the available positions. Candidate preferences with regards to officer position will only be taken into account for those top six ranking candidates. This is left to the discretion of candidates. The top 2 after the final tally of all criteria will be president and vice-president.

- Section F.** Officer responsibilities will include those outlined in the FFA manual and delegated responsibilities by the advisors. These include but are not limited to:
1. Attendance at FFA meetings and events
 2. Attendance at weekly officer meetings and summer officer training session.
 3. Follow the FFA Code of Ethics, ASB Activity Code, and other school expectations.
 4. Complete a Program of Activities with the chairperson of the assigned committee.

Section G. FFA Officer Removal

1. The current officers, advisors, or the administration can remove an FFA member from office for not fulfilling the responsibilities in Section F.
2. The advisors and/or officers will meet with the individual regarding a plan of improvement before the removal process takes effect.
3. A meeting shall be scheduled with the officer and the advisor to notify them of their removal.

4. Applications for a replacement will be made available and due no later than 2 weeks after the vacancy.
5. Announcement of the vacancy will take place either on the school announcements, webpage, or at a regular meeting.
6. Applicants must complete the application and may not go through the review process if there is only one applicant.
7. Review process: when there is more than 1 applicant, the officers and advisors will rank the applicants and the lowest cumulative number will be named the new officer as soon as the decision is made by the officers and the advisor.

Article III. Committees

- Section 1. The approved committees include:
1. Student Development
 2. Chapter Development
 3. Community Development
- Section 2. The responsibilities of these committees are outlined on the Local Program Success cd-rom.
- Section 3. Committees will have a chair and officer in charge. The responsibility of the officers is to oversee and facilitate discussion. The responsibility of the chair is to run the meeting and ensure the success of the committee.
- Section 4. Committee chairs will be selected by advisors and officers.
- Section 5. The program of activities is due to the chapter advisors on Oct. 15. It must be sent to the Washington State FFA on November 1 by the chapter secretary.

Article IV. FFA Booster Club

- Section A. The FFA Booster club is a separate entity from the Mt. Baker FFA chapter and has its own bylaws and constitution.

This constitution and bylaws were approved by the general membership of the Mount Baker FFA on _____. Any changes to the bylaws must follow constitutional guidelines.

President

Secretary

Todd Rightmire, Advisor

Tamara Whitcomb, Advisor

This constitution was amended on ___April 6, 2007_____

This constitution was adopted on May 2, 2000