

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS
OF THE
NEW MEXICO STATE 4-H COUNCIL
Revised July 2007

ARTICLE I - NAME

The official name of this organization shall be the New Mexico State 4-H Council.

ARTICLE II - PURPOSE

The purpose of the New Mexico State 4-H Council is to promote all phases of 4-H club work, assist in developing 4-H projects and activities, assist in planning State 4-H Conference, encourage organization of county councils, promote the exchange of ideas, and promote a statewide youth leadership program.

ARTICLE III - MEMBERSHIP

SECTION I

No senior 4-H member can be denied membership in the New Mexico State 4-H Council due to race, color, religion, gender, age, disability, or national origin. All senior 4-H members must pay their activity fees to be eligible for membership in the Council. Activity fees for all senior members attending State 4-H Conference are payable upon registration of delegates for the State 4-H Council during State 4-H Conference.

SECTION II

The New Mexico State 4-H council shall consist of seven elected officers, eight non-voting ex-officio members (four Ambassadors and four Diplomats) and two voting delegates from each county shall serve.

SECTION III

The New Mexico State 4-H Council voting delegates shall be selected by county councils. Where a county council is not organized, a senior club may select its voting delegates.

SECTION IV

State officers will not count against their county's quota for representation and will not be voting delegates.

SECTION V

Two delegates elected as county representatives will be members of the New Mexico State 4-H Council. The delegates are to be elected at county level. If your county has a State Council Officer, that officer can not serve as the county delegate.

ARTICLE IV - OFFICES

SECTION I

The offices of the New Mexico State 4-H Council shall be president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, reporter, parliamentarian and recreation/song leader. All shall be elected. The recreation/song leader will be elected after an audition.

SECTION II

No county shall furnish more than two elected state officers during a given year. No person shall serve more than one term in the same office but is eligible to hold one additional office, not to exceed two total terms. The term of office for this organization shall be one year--from annual meeting to annual meeting.

SECTION III

Any senior 4-H member who has paid annual activity fees is eligible to become an officer, provided they complete the application process as outlined in Article V, Section II.

SECTION IV

The executive committee shall consist of all the officers of the New Mexico State 4-H Council. The State 4-H Leadership Team shall be made up of the State 4-H Council consisting of seven Officers and the eight ex-officio members, consisting of the Ambassadors made up of four members and the Diplomats made up of four members.

SECTION V

In the event that an officer cannot complete his/her term of office, the executive committee must declare the office open for thirty (30) days, if possible, in which time nominations may be taken. At the end of that time, the executive committee will elect a replacement.

ARTICLE V - ELECTION OF OFFICERS

SECTION I

The officers of the New Mexico State 4-H Council shall be elected at the annual meeting.

SECTION II

Applications to run for office must be approved by the applicant's county and submitted to the New Mexico State 4-H Office by the designated deadline. Nominations of the approved applicants will be made from the floor by voting delegates during the annual meeting. If there are less than seven applicants in any given year then and only then may the deadline for applications be extended at the discretion of the State 4-H Office no later than 5pm on the day of registration for State 4-H Conference. Only candidates with completed applications on file with the State 4-H Office may be nominated from the floor.

SECTION III

Qualifications under Article IV must be observed in elections of all officers.

SECTION IV

Elections shall be by roll call of counties; the Executive Committee will vote only in the event of a tie. Candidates receiving 51% of the vote will be elected. In case no candidate receives 51% of the vote, a run-off election will be held between the two (2) candidates receiving the most votes.

In case of a tie between the two (2) finalists, a secret ballot will be taken, from the delegates and the Executive Committee. The candidate with 51% of the votes shall be declared the winner.

SECTION V

Any qualified candidate who has been defeated in the voting in any previous office is eligible to be re-nominated for any remaining office. A candidate is any member who has been nominated by a voting delegate in the nominating session of the State 4-H Council. Officers will be elected in the following order: president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, reporter, parliamentarian and recreation/song leader.

ARTICLE VI - DUTIES OF OFFICERS

SECTION I

The president shall preside at all meetings, appoint all committees, and perform the usual duties of the presiding officer.

SECTION II

The vice president shall act in the capacity of the president in the absence of the latter, or when called upon to occupy the chair by the president and shall be program chairman.

SECTION III

The secretary will call roll, keep the minutes of all business and executive committee meetings, and shall send a copy of the minutes to each county representative, officer, and the State 4-H staff. The secretary shall keep a record of adoption or rejection of all motions and keep a record of all amendments.

SECTION IV

The treasurer shall keep an accurate record of all expenditures, provide financial requests to the New Mexico State 4-H Foundation and other supportive entities, and make a periodic report of funds when called upon to do so.

SECTION V

The reporter shall act as host to visiting newspaper personnel and write special articles on state events for state papers and 4-H news publications.

SECTION VI

The parliamentarian shall serve in an advisory capacity to the president. They shall settle all questions concerning parliamentary procedure.

SECTION VII

The recreation/song leader shall be in charge of leading recreation and singing during the times designated.

SECTION VII

All State 4-H Council officers must abide by the New Mexico State 4-H Code Of Conduct.

ARTICLE VII – EX-OFFICIO COUNCIL MEMBERS STATE 4-H AMBASSADORS AND DIPLOMATS

SECTIONS I

Ex-officio Members of the State 4-H Council shall be the State 4-H Ambassadors and State 4-H Diplomats.

SECTION II

No person shall serve more than two terms as an ex-officio member, only serving one year in each position, of the State 4-H Council. The term of an ex - officio member (Ambassador or Diplomat) for this organization shall be one year--from January of the year selected to January of the following year.

SECTION III – AMBASSDORS RESPONSIBILITIES

- Assist with New Mexico 4-H Youth Foundation in donor contacts and public relations.
- Represent New Mexico at National 4-H Conference.
- Provide training and support to county ambassadors.
- Assist with New Mexico 4-H Youth Foundation in donor contacts and public relations.
- Host donor reception at State 4-H Conference.
- Abide by the New Mexico State 4-H Code Of Conduct

SECTION IV – DIPLOMAT RESPONSIBILITIES

- Teach recreation workshops at when invited and at district contests.
- Represent New Mexico at a Recreation Lab.
- Provide recreation or activity prior to the opening of each session at State 4-H Conference.
- Abide by the New Mexico State 4-H Code Of Conduct

SECTION V - JOINT REPONSIBILITIES

Assist with junior livestock program, tours, parade, and receptions at state fair.

Senior Leadership Retreat responsibilities:

- Serve senior age 4-H audience.
- Plan and conduct sessions.
- Conduct a workshop.

State 4-H Conference responsibilities:

- Conduct a workshop as a team.
- Team Report.
- Host a dance.
- Assist with operation of contests and workshops.
- In conjunction with officers, conduct awards.
- In conjunction with officers, conduct vespers.

Present *Welcome to 4-H!* workshops as requested by counties/districts.

Be able to speak at county programs and to groups when invited.

Assist officers with assignments when invited and funded.

SECTION VI

SELECTION PROCESS

- Potential Ambassador and Diplomat candidates must send in an application and essay stating why they would like to be selected for either of these positions.
- If there are less than 10 candidates running there will be interviews for just an ambassador team. If there are 11 or more candidates running, interview will take

place for both teams. The candidates will be informed about the selection process once all applications have been received by the deadline in the State 4-H Office. The team shall consist of no more than 8 individuals.

- The applications are then copied and sent to a panel of judges to review.
- In January, candidates give a five-minute presentation on a predetermined topic.
- The judges then have ten minutes to ask the candidates questions why they would like to be a diplomat or ambassador and a member of the leadership team.
- Once a group of five interviews are complete, those five candidates return to the interview room to do a group activity to demonstrate their teamwork abilities. The number of groups returning is determined on the number of candidates who have applied.
- From the judges' evaluations on the application, interviews, and group activity the judges' then make their determination on which candidates they believe will make the best diplomats and ambassadors for that year.

ARTICLE VIII - MEETINGS

SECTION I

There shall be one annual meeting.

SECTION II

Voting delegates must present identification (identification being that of their State 4-H Conference name tag) before entering meeting.

SECTION III

Special meetings may be called by the Executive Committee.

SECTION IV

Programs for the annual meeting shall be planned by the Executive Committee.

SECTION V

All nominations and motions shall be made by voting delegates.

SECTION VI

A quorum must be present in order to conduct business at a regular meeting.

ARTICLE IX - REPORTS

SECTION I

The annual report of the president shall be given at the annual meeting. The report shall cover the activities of the Council and this will serve as the Executive Board Report.

BYLAWS

ARTICLE I - MOTTO

SECTION I

The official motto for the New Mexico State 4-H Council shall be the National 4-H Club Motto: "To Make the Best Better".

ARTICLE II - COLORS

SECTION I

The official colors for the New Mexico State 4-H Council shall be Green and White.

ARTICLE III - EMBLEM

SECTION I

The official emblem for the New Mexico State 4-H Council shall be the National 4-H Club Emblem: the green four-leaf clover bearing a white "H" on each leaf.

ARTICLE IV - PLEDGE

SECTION I

The official pledge of the New Mexico State 4-H Council shall be the National 4-H Pledge:

"I pledge my Head to clearer thinking,
 my Heart to greater loyalty,
 my Hands to larger service, and
 my Health to better living,
 for my club, my community,
 my country, and my world."

ARTICLE V - SONGS

SECTION I

The official 4-H club song for the New Mexico State 4-H Council shall be the "New Mexico 4-H Club Song".

ARTICLE VI - RATIFICATION OF CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

SECTION I

The ratification of a new constitution and bylaws should be at the regular annual meeting

of the New Mexico State 4-H Council by two-thirds of the voting delegates present.

ARTICLE VII - RULES OF ORDER

SECTION I

Robert's Rules of Order shall be the rules used for parliamentary procedure of the New Mexico State 4-H Council.

ARTICLE VIII - QUORUM

SECTION I

A quorum shall consist of 66% of the voting delegates present.

ARTICLE IX - AMENDMENTS

SECTION I

This constitution and these bylaws may be amended by a vote of two-thirds of the voting delegates present at a regular annual meeting of the New Mexico State 4-H Council, subject to the approval of the State 4-H staff.

ARTICLE X - SPEECHES

SECTION I

Candidates for state office must give a speech longer than 1 minute but no longer than 3 minutes in order to be nominated. All candidates must give a speech, or in the case of recreation/song leader, an audition.

SECTION 2

Candidates will be allowed no longer than 2 minutes for set-up prior to beginning a speech or audition. At the end of 2 minutes a candidate must begin their speech or audition.

ARTICLE XI -ACTIVITY FEES

SECTION I

The State 4-H Council will charge \$1.00 per 4-H member attending State 4-H Conference in order to finance the State 4-H Council activities for the coming year. Payment of these activity

fees will allow the county its two votes at the annual meeting.

Last Amended, July 2007

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