

# Rantoul FFA Chapter Constitution

---

## Article I - Name and Purposes

**Section A:** The name of this organization shall be “Rantoul FFA Chapter.”

The letters “FFA” may be used to designate the chapter, its activities, or members thereof.

**Section B:** The purposes for which this chapter is formed are as follows:

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

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

## Article II - Organization

**Section A:** The Rantoul Chapter of the FFA is a chartered local unit of the Illinois FFA Association which is chartered by the National FFA Organization.

**Section B:** This chapter accepts in full the provisions in the constitution and bylaws of the Illinois FFA Association as well as those of the National FFA Association; and Section 17 of the Illinois FFA Association.

### **Article III - Emblem**

**Section A:** The official emblem of the National FFA Organization shall be the emblem for the chapter. The emblem includes five symbols, namely: the plow, representing labor and tillage of the soil; the owl, representing wisdom; the rising sun, representing progress; a cross-section of an ear of corn, representing the common agricultural interests; and an American eagle surmounting the cross-section of the ear of corn, representing the national scope of the organization. The emblem also includes the letters "FFA" and the words "Agricultural Education."

**Section B:** All members are entitled to display the emblem, and those designated by the National FFA Organization.

### **Article IV - Membership**

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

**Section B:** Active membership shall be all students enrolled in an agriculture class that have paid their dues annually.

**Section C:** The regular work of this chapter shall be carried on by the active membership.

**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. Students attend local chapter meetings with reasonable regularity.
2. Students show an interest in, and take part in the affairs of the chapter.
3. Students must be enrolled in an Agriculture Class for at least 1 semester and pay their dues annually.
4. Students complete a record book annually.
5. Students do not utter profane or obscene language.
6. Students behave in a good manner determined by the FFA Advisors and school administration.

**Section E:** Alumni membership is any member or business who has interest in the Rantoul FFA Chapter and supports the Rantoul FFA Chapter by paying annual dues.

**Section F:** Honorary membership in this chapter shall be limited to the Honorary Chapter FFA Degree.

## **Article V - Membership Degrees and Privileges**

**Section A:** There shall be four degrees of active membership in this chapter. These Degrees are: (1) Greenhand FFA Degree, (2) Chapter FFA Degree, (3) State FFA Degree, (4) American FFA Degree.

1. Greenhand FFA Degree recipients are entitled to wear the official bronze emblem pin.
2. Chapter FFA Degree recipients are entitled to wear the official silver emblem degree pin.
3. State FFA Degree recipients are entitled to wear the official gold emblem charm.
4. American FFA Degree recipients are entitled to wear the official gold emblem key.

**Section B:** Greenhand FFA Degree- To be eligible to receive the Greenhand FFA Degree from the chapter, the member must meet the following minimum qualifications:

1. Must be enrolled in agricultural education and have satisfactory plans for a supervised agricultural experience program.
2. Learn and explain the FFA creed, motto, salute and National FFA mission statement.
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 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.
7. Submit a written application for the Greenhand FFA Degree.

**Section C:** Chapter FFA Degree- To be eligible to receive the Chapter FFA Degree from the chapter, the member must meet the following minimum qualifications:

1. Must have received the Greenhand 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. Have participated in the planning and conducting of at least three official functions in the chapter Program of Activities.
4. 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. Have effectively led a group discussion for 15 minutes and/or given a 5 minute speech, or demonstrate 10 parliamentary procedures.
6. Show progress toward individual achievement in the FFA award programs.

**Section D:** State FFA Degree. Minimum qualifications for election:

1. Qualifications for the State FFA Degree are those set forth in the Constitution of the State Association.

**Section E:** American FFA Degree. Minimum qualifications for election:

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

**Section F:** Special committees shall review the qualifications of members and make recommendations to the chapter concerning degree advances.

## **Article VI - Officers**

**Section A:** The officers of the chapter shall be as follows: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Reporter and Sentinel. Second Vice-President, Historian, Parliamentarian, Chaplain and jr. advisors are optional. The local Advisors shall be the teachers of vocational agriculture in the school where the chapter is located. Officers shall perform the usual duties of their respective offices. Chapter officers shall be elected annually by the members present at any regular meeting of the chapter.

**Section B:** Eligible members in good standing shall apply and be elected by a nominating committee and voted on by active members annually.

**Section C:** The interviewing committee, if available, shall consist of 1 senior FFA officer, 1 RTHS administrator, 1 RTHS faculty member, 2 adults selected by the chapter advisor(s) as well as the advisor(s) of the Rantoul FFA Chapter themselves.

**Section D:** The interviewing committee will use the following scoring rubric as a guide for selecting officers, 40% Interview, 40% Participation, 20% Application.

**Section E:** The Chapter Officers and Advisors shall constitute the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee shall have full power to act as necessary for the chapter in accordance with sections taken at chapter meetings and various regulations or bylaws adopted from time to time.

**Section F:** Honorary members shall not vote nor shall they hold any office in the chapter except that of the advisor.

**Section G:** Chapter officers must hold the Greenhand FFA Degree.

**Section H:** All officers are expected to attend Section Workshops.

**Section I:** All Chapter Officers will sign an "Officer Contract." Failure to abide by the agreements may result in an officer being suspended or removed from that office by other officers or the advisor.

**Section J:** The officers are allowed to vote on the removal of any officer unanimously. The Advisor(s) is allowed to remove officers of his/her choosing.

**Section K:** Dismissal of Officers for Code of Conduct

1. In addition to the member conduct policy outlined in the RTHS handbook, Rantoul FFA Officers will be held to the following guidelines during their term as an officer.
2. Absolutely no use, possession, or association of alcoholic beverages, illegal drugs and look alike drugs, or any form of tobacco can or will be tolerated. Participants must refrain from:
  - a. Possession, consumption, or purchase of alcohol. Possession is also considered to be present while illegal transportation is taking place.
  - b. Possession, consumption, or purchase of controlled substances, steroids, look alike drugs or related paraphernalia. Possession is

also considered to be present while illegal transportation is taking place.

- c. Attending any function where there is illegal consumption of alcohol, use of controlled substances, steroids, or look alike drugs.

3. In the event an FFA member is placed under arrest for a violation of the law, the school may review the arrest and situation leading up to the arrest and take disciplinary action through the athletic code.

4. Consequences of an FFA Officer breaking the above code of conduct will be assessed as follows:

1<sup>st</sup> offense – Suspended for a period of one month.

- a. The officer will be suspended from all activities except for regularly scheduled chapter meetings.
  - i. At the regularly scheduled meeting, the suspended officer would not participate in conducting the meeting.
- b. The officer would be expected to continue to fulfill the officer duties and expectations as outlined in the signed agreements.
  - i. The officer would be encouraged to assist the officer team with the preparation of chapter events.
  - ii. However, the suspended officer would not be able to attend the actual event.
- c. The executive committee will evaluate the officer based on their efforts to continue their officer responsibilities during the suspension. At the end of the one-month period the executive committee will review the case and determine by a 2/3 vote if the officer in question should be reinstated or removed from office.

2<sup>nd</sup> Offense – Suspended for a two month period following the same details as outlined above.

3<sup>rd</sup> Offense – Suspended from all FFA activities for a one year period. The officer position would then be filled following the procedure in Section L.

**Section L: Dismissal of officers based on officer responsibility.**

1. In the event that an officer fails to perform the requirements of their office and/or acts in a manner that is unbecoming of an officer of the Rantoul FFA Chapter he/she may be removed from office via the following procedures.
  - a. Advisors recommend action to the executive officers of either
    - i. Probation for a specified period or time; or
    - ii. Removal from office
  - b. The executive officers will present their decision to the entire officer team for approval.

- c. The action must pass by a two-thirds majority vote taken by a secret ballot.
- d. If the officer is dismissed prior to March 1, the executive committee will select (by 2/3 vote) a replacement from the remaining original officer applicants.

## **Article VII - Meetings**

**Section A:** Regular chapter meetings shall be held once a month during the school year and once a month during the remaining months of the year at such time and place as it is designated by the Chapter Executive Committee. Special meetings may be called at any time by the Executive Committee.

**Section B:** A quorum shall consist of 20% of all dues paying chapter members.

**Section C:** Standard meeting paraphernalia shall be used at each meeting. All regular meetings shall open and close with the official ceremony. Roberts Rule of Order shall be the official rule of authority in all FFA meetings. Parliamentary Procedure shall be used in transacting all business at each meeting.

**Section D:** Delegates, as specified by the State Constitution, shall be elected annually from the active membership to represent the chapter at the State Convention. Other delegates may be named as necessary in order to have proper representation at various other FFA meetings with the State.

## **Article VII - Dues**

**Section A:** Local dues in this chapter shall be fixed annually by a majority vote of active members.

**Section B:** Full Local, State, and National dues shall be paid by all active members. Membership dues for active members is \$20 per school year.

This includes:

1. \$7.00 for National dues
2. \$7.00 for State dues
3. \$6.00 for Local dues

**Section C:** No member shall be considered as active and in good standing unless he/she pays full Local, State, and National FFA dues.

## **Article IX - 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 meeting by two-thirds vote of the active members present providing such bylaws conflict in no way with the constitution and bylaws of either the State Association or the National FFA Organization.