

SILENT SPRINGS FFA CHAPTER CONSTITUTION Rev. 10-15-2017 (*Fundamental principles or established precedents*)

ARTICLE I - Name, Mission and Strategies

- Section A.** The name of this organization shall be the Silent Springs FFA Chapter of the National FFA Organization
- Section B.** The Silent Springs FFA Chapter is chartered under the Chugach School District's FOCUS Homeschool Extension, Fairbanks
- Section C.** 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.

To be an integral part of the organized instructional programs in agricultural education which prepare students for a wide range of careers in agriculture, agribusiness, and other agriculture-related occupations.

To strengthen the confidence of students in themselves and in their work by developing desirable work habits and the effective usage of their time; by learning to assume responsibility; and by developing competencies in communications, human relations, and other social abilities leading to the intelligent choice of a career and successful employment or entrepreneurship in the agricultural industry.

To provide agriculture-related programs and activities which will develop pride, responsibility, leadership, character, scholarship, citizenship, patriotism, and thrift, and which will improve the economic, environmental, recreational, and human resources of the community.

To encourage and recognize achievement in supervised agricultural experience programs, scholarship, leadership and other individual and group activities by providing awards to deserving members and chapters. (*National FFA Organization Constitution, Nov. 1995*)

ARTICLE II - Organization

- Section A.** The Silent Springs FFA Chapter is a chartered local unit of the Alaska 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 Alaska FFA Association as well as those of the National FFA Organization.

ARTICLE III - Record of Participation

- Section A.** Record of active member participation shall be kept by the Silent Springs FFA chapter advisor. This record shall be known as the Silent Springs FFA chapter point system. This record will be submitted by the advisors to the secretary following the annual chapter banquet for permanent record.

Points are used to determine award winners for the chapter banquet, qualifying applicants for officer positions, attendance at the state and national FFA convention if necessary, degrees, and extra credit for agricultural classes. The point system will follow the chapter's fiscal year.

ARTICLE IV - 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. (*National Quality FFA Chapter Standard #3, 2017 Official FFA Student Handbook, p.13*)

2. Show an interest in the affairs of the organization by attending monthly meetings, striving for degrees of membership, and participating in other organized activities of the chapter. (*National Quality FFA Chapter Standard #2*)

3. Pay all current state and national dues by the date determined by the chapter. (*2017 Official FFA Student Handbook, p.39*)

4. Display conduct consistent with the ideals and purposes of the National FFA Organization. (*2017 Official FFA Handbook, FFA Code of Ethics, p.39*)

Section E. Names of applicants for membership shall be filed with the chapter secretary and chapter treasurer. (*2017 Official FFA Student Handbook, p.52-53*)

Section F. Future members joining after October 10th, 2017 will be 7th grade or higher.

ARTICLE V - 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 VI - Degrees and Privileges of Active Membership

Section A. There shall be five degrees of active membership based on individual achievement. These are the Discovery FFA Degree, Greenhand FFA Degree, the Chapter FFA Degree, the State FFA Degree, and the American FFA Degree. The national organization shall set the minimum qualifications for each degree. The Discovery FFA Degree is intended for students in the 7th and 8th grade. Receipt of this degree is not necessary in order to obtain the Greenhand FFA Degree or subsequent degrees.

All Discovery FFA Degree recipients are entitled to wear the regulation Blue Discovery FFA Degree pin. 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

Discovery FFA Degree – To be eligible to receive the Discovery FFA Degree from the Silent Springs FFA Chapter, the member must meet the following minimum requirements:

Qualifications for the Discovery FFA Degree are those set forth in the constitution of the National FFA Organization. Please refer to the current National FFA Association manual or student handbook. (*2017 Official FFA Handbook, p.40*)

Section C

Greenhand FFA Degree - To be eligible to receive the Greenhand FFA Degree from the Silent Springs FFA Chapter, the member must meet the following minimum qualifications:

Qualifications for the Greenhand FFA Degree are those set forth in the constitution of the National FFA Organization. Please refer to the current National FFA Association manual. *(2017 Official FFA Handbook, p.41)*

Section D

Chapter FFA Degree *(General Information)*

To be eligible to receive the Chapter FFA Degree from the Silent Springs FFA Chapter, the member must meet the following minimum qualifications:

Qualifications for Chapter FFA Degree are those set forth in the constitution of the National FFA Organization. Please refer to the current National FFA Association manual. Other requirements may be established by the Alaska FFA association. *(2017 Official FFA Handbook, p.41)*

Section E.

State FFA Degree- To be eligible to receive the State FFA Degree from the Alaska FFA Association, the member must meet the following minimum qualifications:

Qualifications for the State FFA Degree are those set forth in the constitution of the State FFA Association and National FFA Organization. *(2017 Official FFA Handbook, p.42)*

Section F.

American Farmer Degree- To be eligible to receive the American Farmer Degree from the National FFA Association, the member must meet the following minimum qualifications:

Qualifications for the American FFA Degree are those set forth in the constitution of the National FFA Organization. *(2017 Official FFA Handbook, p.43)*

ARTICLE VII - Chapter Officers

Section A. The offices of the Silent Springs FFA chapter shall be: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Reporter and Sentinel. Historian, 2nd Vice President, Parliamentarian, Chaplain and other officers may be elected as deemed appropriate by the Executive Committee*. The teacher(s) of agricultural education shall be the FFA advisor(s) and others with experience or knowledge in a given area. Chapter officers shall be elected annually by the members of the chapter. The election shall be held at the conclusion of the Annual Silent Springs FFA Chapter Recognition Banquet. A description and expectation of each officer position can be found in the current National FFA Association Manual or Handbook. *(See Bylaws Article III, Section A for specific election procedures.)*

ARTICLE VIII - Dues

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

Section B. Full local, state and national dues shall be paid by all active members.

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. - Executive Committee

Section A. The Executive Committee shall be comprised of the chapter Advisor(s) and members of the Chapter Officer Team that are not affected by the issue(s) at hand.

ARTICLE X - Amendments

Section A. This constitution may be amended and/or changed no more than one time per school year. This change and/or amendment can happen 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. The amendment and/or change vote must be preceded by a 30 day notification to all active members.

Section B. Bylaws may be adopted to fit the needs of the chapter no more than one time per school year. The adoption can occur at any regular chapter meeting by a 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 organization. The adoption vote must be preceded by a 30 day notification to all active members.

Silent Springs FFA Chapter Rev.10-15-2017
Bylaws
(Establish day-to-day operating procedures)

ARTICLE I. - Relationship to Constitution

The Bylaws shall be part of the Constitution of the Silent Springs FFA Chapter.

ARTICLE II. - Membership

Section A. Resignation and Removal from membership

1. An active member may resign from the Silent Springs FFA Chapter. In order to maintain chapter business, the resigning member will give a two week notice via paper to the advisor. No text, voice message, or email will be accepted. Membership fees, official dress items, books, ag class tuition, registration fees, airline tickets, event tickets, and other merchandise are non-refundable. Fundraiser money in your account will be returned to the general fund.
2. The Executive Committee may, with good cause, remove any active member from the chapter. Good cause shall include, but not be limited to, violation of chapter rules of conduct, violation of FOCUS Homeschool and Chugach School Corporation's code of student conduct or violation of local, state or federal laws. . Membership fees, official dress items, books, ag class tuition, registration fees, airline tickets, event tickets, and other merchandise are non-refundable. Fundraiser money in your account will be returned to the general fund.

ARTICLE III. - Chapter Officers

Section A. Procedures for Electing Officers

1. Potential candidates for officers will be determined by the Silent Springs Point System. Candidates must have earned a minimum of 750 points in the current school year to apply for a chapter officer position.
2. Applicants submit required paperwork by posted deadline.
3. Applicants are scheduled to have two interviews total. Applicants will meet via phone or in person for interviews. Two individuals will interview applicants. Interviewers will be qualified, experienced outsiders (likely past FFA state officers, state FFA staff, or other chapter advisors).
4. Interviewers suggest a slate for the chapter to vote on.

- This may include suggesting that some individual applicants apply again the following year, obtaining more experience in the meantime.
- 5. Offices include: President, Vice-president, Secretary, Treasurer, Reporter, and Sentinel. The chapter may include other offices: a second Vice President (POA duties only), Historian, Parliamentarian, Chaplain, etc.
- 6. If there are less than six qualified applicants, the applicants shall fill the offices in the following order: President, Vice-president, Secretary, Treasurer, Reporter, Sentinel. The offices of treasurer and secretary may be combined.
- 7. The recommended slate of officers shall remain secret until the Annual Banquet. The new team will be announced and a vote will be conducted by the membership at the banquet where the new team will be installed.

Section B. Officers are required to meet all standards listed in the officer contract.

Section C. Resignation, Removal of officers, Officer vacancies

1. An elected officer may resign from their position. In order to maintain chapter business, the resigning officer shall give a two week notice via paper to the advisor and fellow officers. No text or email will be accepted.
2. The Executive Committee may, with good cause, remove any officer elected by the chapter. Good cause shall include, but not be limited to, violation of the provisions of the chapter's officer contract, violation of chapter rules of conduct, violation of FOCUS Homeschool and Chugach School Corporation's code of student conduct or violation of local, state or federal laws.
3. When officers are installed at the conclusion of the Annual Chapter Awards Banquet, and the officer slate is less than six, the slate shall remain fixed for the school year. When an officer resigns or is removed during the school year, a previously qualified applicant who was not installed may be considered and voted in as an interim officer to fill that position.

ARTICLE IV. - Fiscal Responsibility (*National FFA Alumni Association and Chugach School District Mandates*)

Section A. Fiscal year

The fiscal year of the Silent Springs FFA Chapter shall be June 1st to May 31st of the next calendar year.

Section B. Requesting funds

- A. Requests for funds from the Silent Springs FFA Chapter must be signed by the Advisor and the chapter Treasurer.
- B. If the advisor is requesting funds for himself or his family, the request must be signed by the chapter Alumni President and the chapter Treasurer.
- C. Fund requests shall be submitted to the chapter Treasurer.

Section C. Reporting

- A. The treasurer is responsible for preparing a written financial report at each officer meeting and chapter meeting.
- B. The treasurer is responsible for preparing an annual financial report to be presented at the annual banquet.

Section D. The chapter shall adopt policies and procedures consistent with the fiduciary policies, procedures and audit standards of the Chugach School District. Our financial records must be available for audit by school administrators at any time.

ARTICLE V. - Grievances and Appeals

Appeals or protests related to a chapter election or institution of other written chapter policy shall be using the procedures of the Chugach School District.

ARTICLE VI. - Standards

Section A.

Recognition Banquet (*National Quality FFA Chapter Standard #7*)

An annual awards recognition program planned and conducted by FFA members is in place. In addition to FFA members, the awards recognition program is planned and conducted with the input and participation of key stakeholders.

Section B.

POA planning (*National Quality FFA Chapter Standard #5*)

FFA members are involved in the planning and implementation of the program of activities, POA. All FFA members are involved in the planning, implementation, and continuous implementation, and continuous evaluation and improvement of the POA.

Section C.

Stakeholders (*National Quality FFA Chapter Standard #11*)

Stakeholders are engaged in developing and supporting a quality chapter. Resources are developed or acquired to continuously enhance awareness and increase the partner base for increased support of the chapter. The active FFA chapter engages with stakeholders frequently throughout the year.

1. An annual stakeholders' dinner will be planned and conducted by FFA members
2. A dedicated support group, the Silent Springs FFA Alumni, is supported

Section D.

Regular Scheduled Meetings *(National Quality FFA Chapter Standard #6)*

The chapter conducts regularly scheduled chapter meetings. Monthly meeting agendas, minutes, and reports from previous year as well as the current year are kept on file for future use and reference area these are regularly evaluated by members meeting improvements.

Section E.

Recruitment and Retention *(National Quality FFA Chapter Standard #10)*

The chapter will annually analyze and create a strategic Marketing Plan for recruitment and retention of current members.

Section F.

Officer Training *(National Quality FFA Chapter Standard #9)*

Capable and trained officers leave the FFA chapter. Chapter officers are elected annually by members using an approved process outlined by the chapter bylaws. Chapter officers are properly trained to fulfill the duties to their office and participate in leadership activities above the chapter level.

1. Annual Chapter Officer Retreat
2. Annual State FFA Association Chapter Officer Training (COLT)
3. Monthly Chapter Officer Development meetings

Section G.

Annual review of Constitution and Bylaws *(National Quality FFA Chapter Standard #4)*

The FFA chapter Constitution and bylaws are up-to-date and approved by chapter members. The plan for the review and approval of the chapter Constitution and bylaws is led by chapter officers and provides the opportunity for all members to participate and contribute to the review.

ARTICLE VII. - Location of Offices *(General Information)*

The headquarters and principal office of the Silent Springs FFA chapter shall be at 1505 Bradway Rd., North Pole, AK 99705.

SILENT SPRINGS FFA POINTS SYSTEM Rev. 10-15-2017
*(2017/2018 School Year Only, *Needs Revised for 2018/2019 School Year)*

Purpose: Our chapter has 3 goals for the school year. To help our students achieve these goals, a points system will be utilized. The points system recognizes efforts in achieving these goals. The point total for the school year will be used to establish awards, qualify individuals for chapter leadership roles, and qualifies individuals to go to National Convention. Monthly Milestone Awards will be given to students that are on-track to receiving the Superior Member Award. The chapter secretary will serve as the record-keeper of the points. Points will reset on May 31st of each year. No points will carry over to the next school year.

Chapter Goals: 1. Superior Chapter 2. Superior Members 3. Superior Teamwork

ITEM	POINTS AVAILABLE
● LEAD Night Attendance	5 per night
● Pre approved and signed (Parent, advisor & student) SAE contract Points given for first SAE only. See AET for SAE contract.	25 points
● AET Weekly SAE Data Entry & Progress Report* Requires written and approved report as well as signed SAE contract. Points given for one SAE only.	5 points
● Monthly Chapter Meeting Attendance Your name must appear in meeting minutes to count.	10 per meeting
● Ag Speechcraft Attendance (8 classes)	5 per class
● Completion of Ag Speechcraft Approved manuscript & 6-8 min speech given in class. Must have attended 6 classes to qualify.	10 points
● POA Activities (Participation in POA activity)	5 points per activity
● FFA Leadership Activities (Colt, Kick Off, State Convention, District Leadership, Etc.)	10 point per day
● Fundraisers (5 points per \$100 gross) 20% of profits earned will be placed in student personal accounts for FFA conventions, leadership conferences, or FFA apparel. Funds reset each year(use or lose)?	5 points/ \$100
● CDE/LDE, Chapter Organized Class	5 Points per class
● State CDE/LDE Participant	10 Points per event
● National CDE/LDE Participant	15 Points per event
● Ag Class Pre approved and completed one semester (min.) agriculture class completed by April 31, 2018	50 Points
● Ag Class Additional semester of pre approved and completed ag class	50 Points
● Discovery Degree Earned	10 Points

- Greenhand Degree Earned 15 Points
- Chapter Degree Earned 20 Points
- State Degree Earned 25 Points
- Recruit a NEW Member (has paid dues), max 15 points 5 Points/
member
- Complete a Proficiency Application (all SAE components required) 15 Points

MINIMUM QUALIFYING POINT REQUIREMENTS, 2017/2018 School Year
(July 31, 2017- April 31, 2018)

- Monthly Milestone Awards (Given at chapter meetings. 10/17-4/18) 80 points*
(Minimum of 80 points earned in that month only, *min. points may vary)
- Superior Member (recognized at Annual Banquet) 550 points
- National Convention Attendance 550 points
- Chapter Officer Applicant 750 points
- Star Discovery Award Greatest Individual Points Over 550
- Star Greenhand Award Greatest Individual Points Over 650
- Rachel Carson Star (Chapter) Award Greatest Individual Points Over 750

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How often are points distributed?

Points are distributed at LEAD classes only. There will not be points given for the “*AET Weekly SAE Data Entry & Progress Report*” on weeks that do not have a LEAD class. Cumulative points are displayed publically at LEAD classes on a wall chart.

Who records the points?

The chapter Secretary is responsible for the record keeping of the Points System.

Can a student make up points if they missed something?

There will be no points given for make-up “*AET Weekly SAE Data Entry & Progress Reports.*” Points are distributed on the week they are earned. There will be no points awarded outside the scope of this document. There are no make-up points available.

To be considered for a Star Degree award, when must a student complete their degree requirements?

To be eligible for the Star Discovery, Greenhand, and Chapter Awards, student must have completed their degree (and signed off by advisor) by February 1 of the current school year.