



SOUTH DISTRICT 12 4-H COUNCIL STANDING RULES

Revised Amendments 12/2023



Youth involvement in program development at all levels is an essential aspect of successful 4-H programming. For this reason, the District 12 4-H Council provides for representative 4-H youth 7th to 12th grade:

- to advise the District Extension staff on programs for 4-H and other youth,
- to maintain linkage with county 4-H councils,
- to assist with the development and implementation of District events and activities,
- to provide 4-H youth the opportunity to learn democratic principles and procedures, and
- to interpret the 4-H program to the public through effective and satisfying group organization.

The following standing rules adopted by the South District 12 4-H Council members serve as guidelines for the group procedure:

1. **NAME:**

The name of this organization shall be the South District 12 4-H Council.

2. **PURPOSE:**

The purpose shall be to act as a sounding board to:

- a. Identify needs and interests of 4-H and other youth.
- b. Suggest and explore action programs that will meet the needs and interests of youth.
- c. Advise in the determination of future 4-H programs.

3. **MEMBERSHIP:**

- a. The District 12 4-H Council membership is open to all youth regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation, or gender identity. It consists of two delegates from each county 4-H Council and the elected District officers.
- b. Council members must be in the 7th grade or higher of the current **4-H** year.
- c. District Officers must have completed 9th grade in the **4-H** year in which they are installed on the District 4-H Council.
- d. County councils may select alternates to fulfill responsibilities of regularly elected delegates. This alternate must meet the requirements for council membership.

4. **OFFICERS:**

The officers shall be elected annually and shall be: President, 1st Vice President, Delegate at Large, 2nd Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Public Relations, Parliamentarian, Health & Safety Officer, and Youth Advisor.

Officers must fulfill all duties, including:

- a. Attend all council meetings. If unable to attend, the officer must, in advance, notify the District Council Advisor of his/her absence along with legitimate excuse.
- b. Attend assigned contests and events.
- c. Attend council officer retreat. If officer does not attend, a replacement may be appointed to that office by the Executive Committee.

5. **TERM OF OFFICE:**

- a. Council members shall serve from the time of installation until installation of the following year.
- b. Officers shall be elected annually and shall be eligible for only one term in that office.
- c. No person shall hold more than one office on the District 4-H Council during one term.

- d. No member shall hold any officer position, elected or appointed, for more than one term.
 - e. Members shall not serve as an officer for more than three terms.
6. ANNUAL MEETING AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS:
- a. There shall be at least two (2) meetings held each year in the fall and in the spring and/or any meetings deemed necessary by the Executive Committee.
 - b. Officers shall be elected at the Election Convention and will be nominated by application.
 - c. Election Scoring Process:
 - a. 10% of the score will be determined from the application received through 4-H Online. Applications will be reviewed and scored by impartial judges from outside of the district.
 - b. 20% of the score will be determined from the interview.
 - c. 70% of the score will be determined from the popular vote casted by voting delegates.
 - d. To run for District 12 office, you must attend one district meeting and/or informational session where a quorum is not met.
 - e. Past District 12 officers must run for an office higher than the office they previously held as stated in item 7.
 - f. A majority (>50%) constitutes an election.
 - g. Candidates shall run for one office. If they are not elected they will not be able to be nominated for another office during that term.
7. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:
- The Executive Committee shall be composed of the President, 1st Vice President, Delegate at Large, 2nd Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Public Relations, Parliamentarian, Health & Safety Officer, and Youth Advisor in this respective order. The Voting Body will appoint an applicant from the officer candidates into vacant positions through a ballot. This will be determined on the day of Election Convention. Officers cannot hold more than one position.
8. COMMITTEES:
- Committees may be appointed at any time.
9. VOTING BODY:
- The voting body shall consist of the membership as defined in Rule 3. Current officers and candidates cannot vote. However, in the event of a tie, the current president shall cast the deciding vote.
10. QUORUM:
- A quorum shall consist of at least 5 counties or 10 voting members. If a quorum is not met, the meeting shall be deemed an informational session.
11. CONDUCT:
- District 12 4-H Council members are required to follow the stated Texas 4-H Youth and Development Consequences of Misbehavior and Code of Conduct. If a District 4-H Council member is suspected of any illegal activity (consuming alcoholic beverages and/or illegal drugs, etc.), before or during any activity or representation of the District 4-H Council, he/she shall be subject to be sent home and/or dismissal from the District 4-H Council at the discretion of the Executive Committee and/or Council Advisors.
12. AMENDMENTS:
- These rules may be amended by a two-thirds vote at any regular meeting but must have approval of the District 12 4-H Specialist before amendments can be made into bylaws. Amendments may be made as needed for administrative purposes by the District 12 4-H Specialist and/or District 12 4-H Council Advisors without membership approval.
13. DISBANDMENT:

Upon the disbandment of the Council, all real property, including money, equipment, and land, shall become the property of the District 12 4-H Program for care and disposition. The last official duty of the council advisor shall be to affect the transfer of any council property and to turn over any council records to the District 12 4-H Specialist.