

# **University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture Cooperative Extension Service 4-H Constitution**

## **Preamble**

The University of Arkansas 4-H program creates supportive environments utilizing learn-by-doing educational experiences for culturally diverse youth and adults to reach their fullest potential. In support of this mission, the University of Arkansas 4-H develops programs that:

- Are responsive to Arkansas youth and families;
- Are inclusive and diverse;
- Are innovative and adaptable;
- Are accountable for their actions and resources;
- Are collaborative and team focused;
- Are honest, fair and equitable;
- Are respectful for the health and well-being of people, animals and the environment;
- Foster leadership and volunteerism in youth and adults;
- Develop life skills that benefit youth throughout life; and
- Use research-based knowledge developed from the Land Grant University System.

Through the 4-H organization, 4-H adult volunteers, 4-H youth members and University of Arkansas 4-H staff work together to extend 4-H to the youth of Arkansas to set and achieve the goals of the state 4-H program. At the state level, the University of Arkansas 4-H staff and the Arkansas 4-H state program leader have final authority to ensure that University of Arkansas policy and 4-H core values are adhered to.

## **Article I Name and Scope**

### **Section 1 – Name**

- A. The name of this organization shall be Arkansas 4-H.

### **Section 2 – Scope**

- A. Arkansas 4-H helps strengthen and grow the Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service mission statewide and is responsible to the state program leader of the Arkansas 4-H program.

**Article II**  
**Purpose**

**Section 1 – Purpose**

- A. Arkansas 4-H is organized to:
1. Provide leadership for 4-H programming and ensure alignment with statewide goals and priorities;
  2. Assess local and area needs to help ensure statewide and area programming addresses those needs; and
  3. Serve as a conduit to connect state and area programming and committees;

**Section 2 – Operation**

- A. Arkansas 4-H shall operate as a, nonpolitical, educational activity of the University of Arkansas in furtherance of 4-H work in Arkansas.

**Article III**  
**Membership**

**Section 1 – Introduction**

- A. The University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture offers all its Extension and Research programs and services without regard to race, color, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, national origin, religion, age, disability, marital or veteran status, genetic information, or any other legally protected status, and is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer.

**Article IV**  
**4-H Name and Emblem**

**Section 1 – Use**

- A. The four-leaf clover with the letter “H” in each of the leaflets representing equal training of the Head, Heart, Hands, and Health shall be the official emblem of Arkansas 4-H. All uses of the 4-H name or emblem shall be consistent with the educational purposes, character-building objectives and dignity of the 4-H organization.

**Section 2 – Limits**

- A. The 4-H name and emblem shall not be used if it exploits or might be construed to exploit the 4-H youth movement. This will hold true in the case of locally originated contests and awards, money-raising activities, printed materials, supplies to be sold or provided without charge and advertisements.

**Section 3 – Authority**

- A. By act of Congress, the Secretary of Agriculture, United States Department of Agriculture, is the final authority for authorization for the use of the name and emblem of 4-H youth work. In Arkansas, the Director of Cooperative Extension and State 4-H program leader authorize the use of the 4-H name and emblem. State and local 4-H organizations shall operate within this authorization through the granting of a 4-H charter.

## **Article V Leadership**

### **Section 1. Officer Expectations**

The objectives for the State 4-H Council membership shall include:

- Serving as a role model, representative and spokesperson for the Arkansas 4-H Program,
- Upholding the high ideals, values and moral standards of the Arkansas 4-H program,
- Traveling within the district and state to fulfill responsibilities,
- Serving as a “Youth Advisory Committee” to the state 4-H program,
- Serve as an active and contributing member of state activity and events committees,
- Planning, conducting and evaluating Council-led state events, and;
- Seek opportunities to expand and diversify audiences and programs of the Arkansas 4-H Program.

### **Section 2. State Officers**

The Arkansas 4-H State Council leadership team will be comprised of the following 7 offices:

- President
- First Vice-President (Service Learning chairperson)
- Secretary
- Reporter (Public Relations chairperson)
- Vice-President – Delta District
- Vice-President – Ouachita District
- Vice-President – Ozark District

After election, district vice-presidents will be assigned as Sergeant at Arms, Historian,  
and Parliamentarian.

### **Section 3. State Officer Candidate Selection**

Applications are due to the State 4-H Office by March 15. There is no limit to the amount of 4-H'ers that may apply from a county. Ages 16-18 (be no more than 18 years of age during the calendar year they are to be elected). Candidates must have been named an Arkansas 4-H Ambassador for at least one year prior.

#### **State Election Board**

- Rotation of agents – 2 per district
- 4-H Department Head
- 2 representatives from state 4-H office
- 4-H President (no voting role)
- 4-H Foundation board member
- AAE4-HA representative

The election board will serve as a nomination selection committee. All candidates will go through a face-to-face review process. The election board will give recommendations & feedback of strengths and weaknesses of candidates and have final say of a candidate's eligibility.

## **Section 4. Voting**

**District O-Rama** – registered full-time participants will vote to elect the District Vice-President positions.

**State O-Rama** – County agents may choose 2 voting delegates (150 total in state). Voting delegates must be senior 4-H'ers and be registered as a full-time participant at Arkansas 4-H O-Rama. Voting delegates do not have to be an Arkansas 4-H ambassador to be chosen.

Campaign speeches take place during opening assembly. Speeches are to be no more than 3 minutes in length – no props or music. Professional dress. Winners give a one-minute acceptance speech during closing assembly.

The Arkansas 4-H Constitution and Bylaws will be initially ratified and consequently voted upon at the annual business meeting to take place (officers & voting delegates) at State O-Rama.

### **Article VI**

#### **Parliamentary Authority**

The rules contained in the current edition of *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised* shall govern this organization in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with the bylaws and any special rules of order this organization may adopt.

### **Article VII**

#### **Amendments**

- A. This constitution may be amended by a two-third vote at the Arkansas O-Rama with the support of the state staff, providing that said amendment(s) has been presented in writing to all members and advisors at least 30 days prior to its presentation to the Council for adoption.
- B. Proposed amendments may be made by the Arkansas 4-H Council by bringing proposed amendments to the state 4-H program specialists or by the program specialists bringing proposed changes to the State 4-H Council.
- C. A current version of the State 4-H Council Constitution will be posted on the Arkansas 4-H website.