**Iroquois West FFA Chapter Policies**

**How to Become an FFA Member**

Membership is open to all students enrolled in an approved agricultural education class. Students enrolled in agricultural education class at Iroquois West High School may choose to be a member of the FFA.

**(It is required by the National FFA Organization that all members be enrolled in at least one-semester course each year to maintain FFA membership)**

Officers must be enrolled in year-long courses.

**Participation in FFA Events**

Participation in FFA events is optional. With the exception of the Iroquois West FFA & FFA Alumni Auction and Auction collection day. Unlike athletics, students do not have to attend every FFA contest, meeting, practice, activity, etc.. Students in FFA get to pick and choose what events they would like to participate in. If they are interested in certain contests or leadership events, they may choose to only do those activities. However, the more active a student become the more opportunities for awards and scholarships will be presented to them.

Most FFA activities do not limit the number of members that may attend, but in some instances they do. Most FFA leadership conferences, conventions, camps, and certain CDEs only allow a certain number of members from each chapter to participate. For most FFA activities there will be a sign-up sheet in the agriculture classroom.

In cases where the number of individuals signed up exceeds the number that can attend, the following criteria will be utilized to determine the members that get to attend:

1. CDE’s: attendance at practices combined with content knowledge.
2. Activities missing school: grades.
3. The FFA Points System. The more active student will get the first chance to participate. The most recent total points will be used.

**FFA Calendar of Events**

All calendar of events for FFA activities will be distributed the first week of school.

Required Events will be the Iroquois West FFA & FFA Alumni auction & collecting of auction donations. (to be determined by the current years officer team)

Failure to participate in these two events prohibits students from participating in any activity that costs the chapter money.

**FFA Official Dress**

An official FFA jacket zipped to the top

• Black slacks (boys) or black skirt (girls)

• White collared blouse or white collared shirt

• Official FFA tie (boys) or Official FFA scarf (girls)

• Black dress shoes with a closed heel and toe

• Black socks (boys) or hosiery (girls)

**FFA Points System**

Chapter Activities- 5 points

Community Service Activity- 15 points

Career Development Event- 10 points

Leadership Conferences & Workshops - 10 points

Proficiency Awards or Other SAE related items- 15 points

FFA points are used to determine award winners and participants for certain FFA events.

FFA points will not be given for National FFA Convention as you are selected to go, and not everyone can attend.

The points system starts at the beginning of the school year and ends at the end of the school year to make it fair for freshmen.

**Overnight Trips Code of Conduct**

* Students will wear appropriate official dress at all times, when official dress is needed.
* Students will follow the school dress code for all social activities.
* Students will not bring or use inappropriate items such as alcohol, drugs, or tobacco.
* Students will not enter the hotel room of a person of the opposite sex.
* Students will not enter the hotel room belonging to a non-Iroquois West FFA Member at any time or allow a non-Iroquois West FFA member to enter their room at any time.
* Students will not use my cell phone or any other electronic device during a session unless given direct permission from the advisor.
* Students will not sleep during sessions.
* Students will treat other members, guests, chaperones, and advisors with respect.
* Students will maintain a positive attitude throughout the trip.
* Students will be on time for all events and meet times, in order to ensure that the trip runs smoothly.
* Students will not use language unbecoming of a leader.
* Students will not vandalize or destruct any property (bus, convention center, hotel, etc.)
* Students will not partake in public displays of affection during the trip. (Including handholding)
* Students will follow any additional rules established for the trip by the chaperones attending.

**National FFA Convention**

* No more than 10 students may attend in one year
* A member may not attend National FFA Convention more than twice, unless they are receiving an award or are participating in a national event.
* An application must be filled out by the member and turned in by the due date. It must also be signed by the student’s teachers verifying their academic performance.

**National CDEs**

If an Iroquois West Team wins a state CDE, that qualifies the chapter to attend the national event, NOT the individual student. Exception, would be individual qualifying events such as public speaking and job interview. Open practices will be held for anyone wanting to compete at the national CDE. Members of the team will be selected 2 weeks prior to National FFA Convention. Attendance at practices and dedication to the team, and individual abilities will be taken in to account when being selected for the team.

**Chapter Meetings**

* Chapter Meetings are typically held once a month on Wednesday evenings at 7pm.
* Meetings are critical for members to gather information and decide the chapter activities and events.

**Discipline Policy**

If a member violates the code of conduct for overnight trips or has a major infraction with the school the following disciplinary policy will be enforced.

Officers-

* Will forego all official officer titles & duties.
* No recognition will be given to them at the banquet or in writing.
* A written apology to the chapter is in order.

All members-

* Will be on probation for 6 months from the date of the offense.
* A second occurrence of an offense will suspend them from all FFA activities until for 6 months after the offense.
* Student will not be allowed to attend any overnight trips with the chapter while on probation.
* While on probation students may still be eligible for awards & degrees.

**FFA Alumni**

* Anyone who is not an active (current member) of the National FFA Organization is eligible to be an alumni member. You do not have to have been an FFA member or been a student at Iroquois West.
* Meetings are typically held in conjunction with FFA meetings.
* It is free!

**SAE**

All agriculture education students are required to have an SAE (Supervised Agricultural Experience Program).

**Ownership/Entrepreneurship**

Students with an ownership/entrepreneurship type SAE own the enterprise, equipment and supplies, make the management decisions and assume the financial risks to produce a product or provide a service. All products or services must be agriculturally related. A few examples would include raising and selling animals or crops, building and selling agricultural equipment, buying and reselling feed, seed or fertilizer, owning a pet care business or a business that programs and installs computer equipment in tractors.

**Placement/Internship**

Placement/Internship programs involve the placement of students in agriculture, food or natural resources-related businesses to provide a "learning by doing" environment. These experiences may be paid or un-paid. Examples would include working on a farm or a ranch, in a farm supply store or a food testing laboratory or in an agriculturally related non-profit organization.

**Research**

In a research SAE students plan and conduct major agricultural experiments using the scientific process and discover new knowledge. As part of the research, students verify and demonstrate or learn about scientific principles in agriculture. Research SAEs can be entrepreneurial or placement. Research SAEs can be conducted alone or cooperatively with other students or mentors/employers. Examples would include conducting research on the most efficient feed supplements for livestock or the best fertilization methods in plants. Research could also be done to study consumer reactions to agricultural products or to determine the best method of welding to hold together a plow.

**Exploratory**

Exploratory SAEs are appropriate for all agriculture students. This SAE activity is usually beginner level, short term and designed primarily to help students become literate in agriculture and/or become aware of possible careers in the AFNR career cluster. Exploratory SAEs should help students create a larger more focused SAE.

**School-Based Enterprise**

This type of SAE is student managed, can be entrepreneurial or placement and takes place in a school setting outside of regularly scheduled class time. The project needs to provide goods and services that meet the needs of an identified market and should replicate the workplace environment as closely as possible. Examples of school based enterprises may include, but are not limited to, cooperative livestock raising in a school facility; managing or working in a school garden, a land lab or a greenhouse; agricultural research done at the school; agricultural equipment fabrication or equipment maintenance services done using school facilities; or managing or working in a school store.

**Service-Learning**

Service-learning is a student-managed service activity where students are involved in the development of a needs assessment, planning the goals, objectives and budget, implementation of the activity, promotion and evaluation of a chosen project. It may be for a school, a community organization, religious institution or non‐profit organization. The student(s) are responsible for raising necessary funds for the project (if funds are needed). A project must be a stand‐alone project and not part of an ongoing chapter project, or community fundraiser. Service-learning SAEs may be individual or a small group effort amongst students.