

# Schertz Cibolo Univeral City ISD Agriculture Science Policy Handbook 2018-2019



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# **Schertz Cibolo Universal City ISD Agriculture Science Policy Handbook 2018-2019**

**Coordinator for Career and Technical Education**  
Amy Massey

## **Agriculture Science Teachers and FFA Advisors**

**Samuel Clemens**

Adam Lampman – [alampman@scuc.txed.net](mailto:alampman@scuc.txed.net)  
Kori Heath – [kheath@scuc.txed.net](mailto:kheath@scuc.txed.net)

**Byron P. Steele II**

April Zunker – [astrzelczyk@scuc.txed.net](mailto:astrzelczyk@scuc.txed.net)  
Larry Waddle – [lwaddle@scuc.txed.net](mailto:lwaddle@scuc.txed.net)  
Emily Rollison- [erollison@scuc.txed.net](mailto:erollison@scuc.txed.net)

## **Agriculture Department Phone**

210-945-6576 Clemens  
210-619-4037 Steele

## **High School Phone**

210-945-6100 Clemens  
210-619-4000 Steele

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## OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE FOR AGRICULTURE SCIENCE STUDENTS AND FFA MEMBERS

As a student enrolled in the SCUCISD Agriculture Science Program, your child has the opportunity to become a member of the FFA chapter. This is a group of young people who use agriculture to learn leadership, speaking and communication skills, teamwork, responsibility, along with animal science techniques. While the group is based in agriculture, there are many activities to get involved with that do not require working with animals or agriculture in the traditional sense.

In the fall, FFA members compete in leadership development events. Some teams we train are:

- Chapter Conducting
- Quiz
- Radio Broadcasting
- Job Interview
- Creed Speaking
- Skills
- Other Presentation Style teams

Most animal projects are also started in the fall months.

As we get to spring time, FFA members start to prepare for career development events. Some teams we train are:

- Milk Quality
- Poultry Judging
- Entomology
- Wildlife
- Nursery Landscape
- Veterinary Technology
- Floriculture
- Food Science
- Horse Judging

January through March also brings several stock shows for animal project competition

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## **INTRODUCTION**

To the Agriscience Student:

We are glad to have you in the Agriculture Science Program and sincerely hope that you enjoy this course. This handbook will answer many questions that concern the coming year. There will be additions to this handbook during the year as the need arises. Remember that **FFA is an extracurricular activity and we strongly encourage you to focus on your grades, STAAR, and attendance!** Please keep this book and refer as needed.

Parents:

We are well aware that many of you are not quite sure what to expect from the Agriculture Science Program. This booklet was prepared to answer as many questions as possible for the student and parent. We feel the Agriculture Science Program is one of the best programs offered today. We offer not only classroom work, but practical experience as well. We teach leadership, cooperation and responsibility. These traits are all important for our young people to learn and practice.

## **COURSES AVAILABLE IN THE AGRISCIENCE DEPARTMENT**

1. Principles of Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources
2. Livestock Production
3. Agriculture Mechanics and Metal Technology
4. Small Animal Management
5. Equine Science
6. Landscape Design
7. Veterinary Medical Applications
8. Advanced Animal Science (Can count as 4<sup>th</sup> Science Credit)
9. Advanced Plant and Soil Science (Can count as 4<sup>th</sup> Science Credit)
10. Principles and Elements of Floral Design (Counts as Fine Arts Credit)
11. Wildlife, Fisheries, and Ecology Mgmt.
12. Horticulture Science
13. Turf Grass Management
14. Agriculture Structures and Facilities
15. Agricultural Power Systems

## **FFA BOOSTER CLUB ACTIVITIES**

The FFA Booster Club Association is responsible for raising funds to help agriculture students in many ways. The primary fund raising is done to provide scholarships for outgoing senior FFA members and support the agriscience program. If the money is available, the Booster Club will also help fund the following activities:

1. Help to defray travel expenses for conventions and contests.
2. Purchase of equipment or items needed by the chapter to compete or attend shows and contests.
3. Other items as the club deems them necessary.

While participation of parents in this club is not mandatory it is highly encouraged – the more people involved the better it becomes. It also allows the parents to have a say in club activities and gives them valuable information about their children's activities in the FFA. **Parent participation does not affect the student's opportunity to receive scholarships, etc. from the Booster Club. It does make it more difficult for the club to raise the needed money to make the scholarships possible. Scholarships are based on the student's participation in activities and are NOT guaranteed to every student.**

Information about fundraisers is given at the regular monthly meetings and maximum participation is encouraged by students and parents. Students will be given specific assignments for the purchasing of drinks, food, and other required items and will be given in the weeks preceding the FFA Booster Club events.

For more information on Cibolo Creek Booster Club visit: [www.cibolocreekffa.org](http://www.cibolocreekffa.org)

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### **FFA GENERAL RULES**

1. Each student enrolled in Agriculture Science classes is encouraged to join the National FFA organization (FFA). **Dues of \$25 per year must be paid by September 28<sup>th</sup>** on My School Bucks. Those students who do not join FFA are not eligible to participate in any FFA activity, judging contest, livestock shows or scholarship consideration.
2. All members are encouraged to attend all FFA meetings and activities. Parents are also encouraged to join and participate in FFA Booster Club activities.
3. Scheduling of meetings and workdays will be determined at the beginning of each school year. There is a calendar of events in this handbook. This is done to avoid conflicts. However, other work days may come up if needed.
4. **Students with repeated discipline issues will be dismissed from the Cibolo Creek FFA organization according to district policy. All dues and fees are non-refundable. Repeated discipline issues is defined as:**

- First suspension for school is a behavior contract and any following suspension from school is automatic removal
- DAEP Placement automatic removal
- Three assignments to ISS

The Ag Teacher reserves the right to create a behavior contract with any student who exhibits repeated discipline issues.

5. **Chain of Command: All questions and concerns for the FFA program should be addressed with the FFA advisor of that activity. If that does not satisfy your needs the following chain of command must be followed.**

**Step 1: Address the issue with the FFA Advisor of that activity**

**Step 2: Address the issue with the Lead Ag. Teacher**

**Step 3: Address the issue with the Assistant Principal.**

**If the chain of command is not followed it could result in removal from the organization.**

6. School dress code will be followed at all FFA functions including but not limited to FFA meetings and stock shows. Students not in dress code, will not participate in FFA activities.
7. **The school district reserves the right to ban any individual from the Toby Connor Complex at any time to protect the integrity of the organization and safety of its students and employees.** All district policies will be followed at the Toby Connor Complex.
8. Livestock rules and regulations will be found in the current species handbook and the Toby Connor Complex handbook given by that species advisor.

### **CODE OF ETHICS**

Agriculture Science students will honor the National FFA Code of Ethics. Failure to comply with the code of ethics will result in removal from the FFA program. They will conduct themselves at all times in a manner befitting their organization, chapter, school and community by:

1. Dressing neatly and appropriately for the occasion.
2. Showing respect for the rights of others and being courteous.
3. Being honest and not taking unfair advantage of others.
4. Respect property of others.
5. Refraining from loud, boisterous talk, swearing, and other unbecoming conduct.
6. Demonstrating sportsmanship in the show ring, judging contests and meetings.
7. Attending meetings promptly and respecting the opinion of others in discussions.
8. Taking pride in their organization.
9. Sharing with others experiences and knowledge gained by attending National and State meetings.

### **SOCIAL MEDIA:**

- Students, parents and teachers are expected to follow the same rules for good behavior and respectful conduct online as offline.
- No defaming Cibolo Creek FFA, another FFA member, fellow peer, adult, advisor, etc. on social media website such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Snapchat or other social media site. Failure to act appropriately may result in a write up and or removal from the FFA program.

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## **Types of Membership**

### **Active Members**

To be eligible for active membership in this chapter, a student must meet the membership eligibility requirements of the National FFA Organization and the Texas FFA Association. Active members in good standing may vote on all business brought before the chapter. An active member shall be considered in good standing when he or she:

- While in school, be enrolled in at least one agriculture, food and natural resources course, as defined in Texas FFA Association membership policies, 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 agriculture, food and natural resources career.
- Shows an interest in the affairs of the organization by attending meetings, striving for degrees of membership, and participating in other organized activities of the chapter.
- Pays all current local, district, area, state and national dues by the date determined by the chapter.
- Displays conduct consistent with the ideals and purposes of the National FFA Organization, Texas FFA Association and with the school district's code of student conduct.
- Participates in Local Chapter Fundraiser.

### **Junior FFA Membership**

The Junior FFA is a statewide organization with the purpose of enhancing and encouraging the education of younger students who are interested in the future of the agriculture industry. The organization of the Junior FFA is entirely optional, with the need of such an organization to be determined by the local FFA chapter advisors.

- To be eligible to participate in Junior FFA, the student must at least be in the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade and 8 years old enrolled in SCUC ISD. They must meet both of these requirements.
- Students initiate junior membership by participating in local functions designated by the advisors. Junior FFA members must meet the same requirements and follow the same rules as FFA members.
- Junior FFA members are not eligible to participate in events in which Texas FFA Association has direct oversight including but not limited to leadership development events, career development events, state FFA rodeo, and agriscience fair. Junior membership activities shall include exhibition of livestock projects.
- Junior members are not eligible to cast a vote or participate in the discussion related to the official business of the Texas FFA or any district, area association, do not count toward membership totals for delegate allocation and should not be listed on the active Texas FFA membership roster.
- All junior members have the same expectations as regular members. All members must attend mandatory FFA activities to include barn clean ups and county show clean up.
- Upon entering the 9<sup>th</sup> grade, junior membership will cease. Students must enroll in an Agricultural Science course and join FFA to maintain membership.

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## **FFA Officers**

High school members may run for office following completion of one year in the ag program and of FFA membership. In order for a member to run for office, the following requirements must be met:

1. Must have been academically eligible throughout the entire current school year.
2. Must have participated in 2 chapter activities in the past year.
3. No discipline problems or office referrals.
4. Must have participated on a Leadership Development Team or a Career Development Team during the past year

Once elected, officers must:

1. Must remain academically eligible.
2. Must attend all chapter meetings and executive functions.
3. Attend Officer Planning
4. Must have official dress available for official FFA activities.
5. Must attend the following activities. Be aware these are summer, school day, evening and weekend activities. :
  - a. State FFA convention
  - b. Area leadership camp (must attend if accepted)
  - c. Guadalupe Valley FFA District Leadership Lab
  - d. Guadalupe Valley FFA District Banquet
  - e. Area Convention
6. Must attend or participate in all of the following activities:
  - a. Cibolo Creek FFA Booster club fundraisers
  - b. Participate in **ALL** Cibolo Creek FFA fundraisers
  - c. At least one Leadership Development Event and one Career Development Event
  - d. Chapter FFA Banquet
  - e. Participate in **ALL** Cibolo Creek FFA Barn Clean ups
7. It is required that student officers participate in at least one day of recruitment during their school's Prep Days as well as their school's electives fair.
8. Officers will also lead various committees and see that all committee assignments are carried out.
9. Failure to comply with these rules will lead to removal from office.
 

Officers may be removed in the following ways:

  - a. Three written notices for missed activities or improper behavior.
  - b. Decision of advisors and/or administration.

Officer elections are conducted at the April meeting each year. Applications are due to the Ag. teacher no later than 4:00 pm on the date listed each year. Chapter officers will be selected based upon scores earned in the following categories:

- a. Interview
- b. Written Test
- c. Resume and Application
- d. Popular vote of the membership

The written test will be administered on the day of interviews and will be over parliamentary knowledge and knowledge of the FFA. Information may be found in the parliamentary guide and National FFA Manual.

Officers are encouraged to remember they are serving in a leadership role and ALWAYS represent the Cibolo Creek FFA. They are the face of the organization in and out of school and FFA Activities. The advisors reserve the right to remove officers for inappropriate behaviors in and out of school. Officers and officer candidates should be reminded that all social media interactions are a reflection of the school and organization. Inappropriate behavior on social media may result in a written notice and or removal from office.

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## **Cibolo Creek FFA Award Selection Criteria**

Chapter awards for the Cibolo Creek FFA Banquet will be determined by the teacher advisors. The following criteria will be used when selecting award recipients.

### **Star Greenhand**

The chapter's most active first-year member who has a strong SAE program and has demonstrated leadership is selected to win the Star Greenhand award. Selection Criteria:

- Participation on Leadership Development Event teams
- Participation on Career Development Event teams
- Completion of a Supervised Agricultural Experience program
- Student Initiative- Student takes initiative to become an active participant in the program
- Student Responsibility- Student takes responsibility for their projects and activities
- Student Leadership- Student acts as a team player and role model for others

### **Star Chapter**

The chapter member who has an outstanding SAE and demonstrates the most involvement in all phases of the chapter's activities is awarded the Star Chapter award. Selection Criteria:

- Must have earned the Greenhand degree
- Participation on Leadership Development Event teams
- Participation on Career Development Event teams
- Completion of a Supervised Agricultural Experience program
- Student Initiative- Student takes initiative to be an active participant in the program
- Student Responsibility- Student takes responsibility for their projects and activities
- Student Leadership- Student acts as a team player and role model for others

### **Outstanding Junior Member:**

The Junior member who has an outstanding SAE and demonstrates the most involvement Selection Criteria:

- Must be a Junior Member
- Completion of a Supervised Agricultural Experience program
- Student Initiative- Student takes initiative to be an active participant in the program
- Student Responsibility- Student takes responsibility for their projects and activities
- Student Leadership- Student acts as a team player and role model for others

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**Outstanding Lone Star:**

The chapter member who has an outstanding SAE and demonstrates the most involvement in all phases of the chapter's activities is awarded the Star Chapter award. Selection Criteria:

- Must have earned the Chapter degree.
- Must have completed their AET record book and Lone Star application from AET by the chapter set due date.
- Participation on Leadership Development Event teams
- Participation on Career Development Event teams
- Completion of a Supervised Agricultural Experience program
- Student Initiative- Student takes initiative to be an active participant in the program
- Student Responsibility- Student takes responsibility for their projects and activities
- Student Leadership- Student acts as a team player and role model for others

**Outstanding Senior Award:**

The Senior who has an outstanding SAE and demonstrates the most involvement in all phases of the chapter's activities is awarded the Outstanding Senior award. This student should have shown leadership and contributed to the chapter in a positive manner throughout their FFA career. *Selection Criteria:*

- Must be a Senior in High School
- Participation on Leadership Development Event teams
- Participation on Career Development Event teams
- Completion of a Supervised Agricultural Experience program
- Student Initiative- Student takes initiative to be an active participant in the program
- Student Responsibility- Student takes responsibility for their projects and activities
- Student Leadership- Student acts as a team player and role model for others

**High Point Individual:**

Determined by judging card results.

**Feeder Proficiency Awards:**

The student in each species who has an outstanding SAE and demonstrates the most involvement in all phases of the SAE activities is awarded the Feeder Proficiency Awards. This student should have shown leadership and contributed to the chapter in a positive manner throughout their SAE.

**Selection Criteria:**

- Must be a current Cibolo Creek FFA Member in good standing
- Must have completed a Supervised Agricultural Experience Program in the specie awarded
- Student Initiative- Student takes initiative to be an active participant in the program
- Student Responsibility- Student takes responsibility for their projects and activities
- Student Leadership- Student acts as a team player and role model for others

All awards are ultimately chosen by the Agriculture Teachers and decisions are final.

**Applications for Degrees and Awards can be found on the Cibolo Creek FFA Web Page. An application must be filled out and turned in to the Ag. teachers no later than the date declared on the chapter calendar for the member to be considered for the award.**

**<http://www.cibolocreek.ffanow.org>**

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## **CIBOLO CREEK FFA LETTER JACKET GUIDELINES**

CCFFA members enrolled in high school may earn a letterman jacket for their respective high school by completing the requirements listed below. **Students are solely responsible for tracking their progress on the form found on the CCFFA web Site.** ONLY activities completed while the student is in High School, enrolled in the SCUCISD Agriculture Program and the Cibolo Creek FFA will be considered for a Letterman Jacket.

### Letterman Jacket Requirements:

- ✓ **Complete ONE Leadership Requirement**
- ✓ **Complete ONE SAE Requirement**
- ✓ **Must have participated fully in the annual fundraiser every year up to the year the student qualifies**

### **Leadership Requirement Options:** Student must complete **ONE** of the following:

- Successfully earn the Lonestar FFA Degree as approved by the chapter, District, Area and State Associations
- OR**
- Has qualified for 2 Area level Leadership Development Event Competitions (May be in the same or different academic years)
- OR**
- Has qualified for a state Leadership Development or Career Development Event (non – qualifying events require placing 10<sup>th</sup> or higher as a team at the state event)

### **SAE Requirement Options:** Student must complete **ONE**

- The student has exhibited at the county or a major livestock show (San Antonio, Houston or Star of Texas) for 3 consecutive years in High School through the CCFFA
- OR**
- The student has placed an SAE project at the Guadalupe County Junior Livestock Show or a major livestock show (San Antonio, Houston, Star of Texas) through the CCFFA. The term placing refers to making the sale with the animal.
- OR**
- Student can complete another approved state SAE project with prior approval(for example: science fair)

### **Fundraiser Requirement:** Student must participate in the annual **Fundraiser**

Once the student has met ONE Leadership Requirement **AND** ONE SAE requirement **AND** fundraiser requirement they will fill out the application and turn it into their advisor by the due dates set at the beginning of each semester.

The Letterman Jacket requirements will carry over from year to year, and are cumulative. For example, if a student places at county their Freshmen year and qualifies for one Area LDE contest, then their Sophomore year earns the Chapter FFA Degree and qualifies for another Area LDE contest, the student will have earned their Letterman Jacket at the completion of that year.

Cibolo Creek FFA will pay for the student's jacket and letter ONLY. The student and parent are responsible for any additional insignia, lettering, patches, embroidery, etc.

**Applications can be found on the Cibolo Creek FFA website:**

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