

TAFT FFA

FFA Student Handbook 2021-2022

District Approved
August 1, 2021

It is the policy of Taft I.S.D. not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, or handicap in its programs, services, or activities as required by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended.

Es norma de Taft I.S.D. el no discriminar por motivos de raza, color, origen nacional, sexo o impedimento, en sus programas, servicios o actividades, tal como lo requieren el Título VI de la Ley de Derechos Civiles de 1964, según enmienda; el Título IX de las Enmiendas en la Educación de 1972, y la Sección 504 de la Ley de Rehabilitación de 1973, según la enmienda.

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TAFT FFA GUIDELINES

The Taft FFA guidelines are set forth to enhance the agricultural educational experience of the students. The Taft FFA is dedicated to making a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth, and career success through agricultural education. Guidelines are written to act as a system of procedures for FFA members participating in Supervised Agricultural Experience Programs, Career Development Events, Leadership Development Events, Leadership Training Events, and being on the Officer Team. Understanding these expectations is intended to help everyone have a great experience.

The National FFA Organization operates under a Federal Charter granted by the 81st Congress of the United States and is an integral part of public instruction in agriculture. The U.S. Department of Education provides leadership and helps set direction for the FFA as a service to state and local agricultural education programs.

STUDENT-FFA MEMBER CODE OF CONDUCT

FFA members must abide by all rules as published in the Taft I.S.D. Student Handbook and Code of Conduct. These handbooks can be found on the Taft ISD webpage. These rules will apply to all FFA events and settings. FFA members will be held accountable for any additional rules approved by the FFA Advisors, Principals, Director of CTE, and Superintendent that are specific to FFA. Failure to comply could result in conditional suspension depending on the severity of the case and circumstances.

CONDUCT AND ATTITUDE

A person's conduct is directly related to their attitude. Members should see themselves as ambassadors, not only for their program, but for their school and community as well. People in other communities will develop an impression of Taft based on the conduct of our Members. **Members who receive 3 or more discipline referrals or are sent to DAEP will be subject to a behavior contract and could be removed from the FFA organization if the behavior does not improve.**

Always remember, Taft is on the back of every FFA Jacket!

GENERAL RULES OF CONDUCT

- Be a good citizen and associate with other good citizens.
- Obey the laws of the community and the school.
- Take pride in your schoolwork and do the very best that you can.
- Be respectful to those in authority.
- Take pride in your dress and appearance.
- Treat equipment and property as if you paid for it.
- Always tell the truth.
- Take and keep only what belongs to you.
- Be at every team practice and various events on time.
- Give your best effort at every practice and competition.

CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS

Student members will be expected to:

- maintain a minimum grade of 70 in all classes to be eligible to show/participate in all FFA extracurricular activities. If a student fails a grading period, the member is still expected to care for projects and attend practices. In addition, members who fail are ineligible for competition.
- be successful in every class under the authority of the teacher and to demonstrate a respectful and cooperative attitude.

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

FFA members are expected to be in and on time to class every day. FFA members with excessive academic absences or tardies may be removed from a FFA team or a SAE Program/Project (Supervised Agriculture Experience). Absences, excused or unexcused, will be accessed by the advisor of each team. Taft FFA Advisors will submit attendance for all school-related absences. These absences will be coded according to the Taft ISD Attendance Policy.

MISSED PRACTICE/ MISSED TEAM EVENTS

You may only have 3 unexcused tardies and/or absences before being dismissed from any FFA team. If you are going to be late or absent, you must notify your advisor(s) prior to practice.

If Taft FFA pays the entry fees for a team contest, students are responsible for attending the contest. Students that fail to show up or drop from the team without the following, will be subject to paying for their portion of the fees for the contest:

- an excuse approved by the Agriculture Science Teacher
- a 1 week notice (needed to find replacement for team)

Students participating on teams will be signing this portion of the handbook at the beginning of the year and will be signing a form stating that they understand all rules for FFA contest.

FFA PARTICIPATION CONFLICTS

FFA members are encouraged to participate in as many activities as possible. FFA Advisors and students will work together to develop an alternative schedule or solution when conflicts arise with other activities. District, Area, or State competition takes precedent over non-district Competition.

ELIGIBILITY

Students must meet the eligibility rules found in Section 400-446 of the *Constitution and Contest Rules* published by the University Interscholastic League and other rules provided by the Local Board. Students must obtain administrative approval to be eligible to participate in FFA activities.

TRAVEL

Members are required to travel to FFA events with the team unless extenuating circumstances arise. All arrangements must be made prior to the trip. For Livestock Show travel, please see the livestock show section.

All school district and campus policies must be followed on FFA trips.

OVERNIGHT TRAVEL

Ag Teachers/FFA Advisors will not be allowed to stay in rooms with Taft ISD students.

The responsibility will be placed on the FFA students to behave properly, appropriately and to follow all written and oral rules/directions given, when staying overnight on a school sponsored event. It is a privilege to travel as a member of Taft FFA; therefore, students must act in such a way that affords them this privilege. Any misconduct will result in disciplinary action from Taft ISD administrators and FFA Advisors.

IMPROPER CONDUCT

The FFA member is expected to represent their community, Chapter, and school with integrity and class. A FFA member who displays improper conduct will be subject to disciplinary action by school administrators and FFA Advisors. Discipline could result in dismissal from the FFA organization.

SUSPENSION FROM THE FFA ORGANIZATION

The student may be removed from the FFA program if the student engages in conduct punishable as a felony listed under Title V of the Texas Penal Code. Only the FFA Advisors may suspend a member from the total program. Reinstatement may occur, if the advisors have reevaluated the member's attitude, behavior, and/or academic performance and see a significant change. The team advisor may suspend a member from the team. Documentation of why the member is being suspended will be provided and the parents will be contacted. The FFA Advisors are responsible for seeing that discipline is consistent; however, punishment will be determined based on history and offense. FFA Advisors and Taft I.S.D. Administration will work collaboratively in determining proper disciplinary action.

IN SCHOOL SUSPENSION (ISS)/ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION (DAEP)

Students that are assigned ISS may practice after school but may not participate in competitions unless they have fulfilled their ISS assignment.

Students placed in DAEP will not be allowed to participate in extracurricular activities during the length of their placement. When a student is assigned to DAEP and serving in a leadership role, they will have the opportunity to resign from their position or be removed by the FFA Advisors. Once the student returns to campus, they will serve a probationary period which will limit their involvement in all FFA activities. Students who are repeatedly assigned to ISS or DAEP will be dismissed from the FFA program.

DRUGS/ALCOHOL/TOBACCO

As a student-member you represent your team and advisors, your school, Chapter, and your community. With that privilege, comes responsibility. In order for Taft FFA to be a competitive program, members must maintain a healthy lifestyle.

RESPECT FOR ADVISORS/ADULTS

Advisors and adults should receive "yes Ma'am", "yes Sir", "no Ma'am", and "no Sir" responses from members when addressing them. Whenever Advisors are talking, members are to give them their undivided attention. All decisions made by Agriculture Science Teachers is final. Students need to respect any directives and decisions made. Advisors will be addressed in a professional manner by calling them by their proper names.

GROOMING

HAIR: As stated in the THS Student Handbook, distracting colors and haircuts that are not a natural human color are not permitted.

FACIAL HAIR: Male FFA members will be clean-shaven or have groomed facial hair (Advisor's discretion) during competition and activities at which the student is representing Taft FFA. We will maintain a uniform, clean, and neat appearance.

OFFICIAL DRESS

Students participating in contests will be expected to wear official dress.

Girls: white collared shirt (buttoned to the neck)

Black closed toe hose or tights

Solid Black skirt (**minimum** knee length.) If it has a slit, it must not be more than 2 inches.

Solid black closed toe closed heel shoes

Boys: White collared shirt (buttoned to the neck)

Solid black slacks

Black socks

Solid black shoes or solid black boots

LETTERING IN FFA

We believe that the awards students receive for taking part in FFA are symbols of hard work, dedicated effort, positive attitude, and a desire to be successful. Therefore, all students are encouraged to strive to letter in FFA. Students who complete the following will be eligible to letter in FFA and will receive their letterman jackets at the next available ordering date:

- Served as President of Taft FFA
- Qualified to advance to a State Competition in FFA
- Place Top 10 Individual at a State Competition
- Place Top 5 Team at a State Competition

LIVESTOCK SHOWS

In accordance with Taft I.S.D. Career & Technical Education overnight travel procedures, Ag Teachers/FFA Advisors will only attend livestock shows where 2 or more students are exhibiting their projects.

Exhibitors may attend other livestock shows, but it will be the parent's responsibility to make travel arrangements and transportation of project to the show. Livestock shows can be very large and very spread out. It is required that all exhibitors (students) are accompanied by a parent/guardian at all times.

With today's educational financial status, we must be mindful of our travel expenses. Therefore, if only one student is entered in any division of any livestock shows, an advisor will not be allowed to attend. It will be the responsibility of the students and parents to attend the show on their own and transport their own project.

In some circumstances, it may be required to have more than one teacher/advisor attend any given stock show. This will be determined on a case by case basis. For livestock shows, members and their parent/guardian must be present. This is an optional activity in which it will not be a sponsored event. Hotels, meals, & travel is the responsibility of the member.

The FFA Advisor/AST will only transport large animals (sheep, goats, swine, cattle) to the ag farm at the time of procurement, as well as to and from any Livestock Shows the animal has entered under the Taft FFA. The FFA Advisor/AST will not be responsible for hauling animals off at the end of the year, should the student decide not to floor their animal at the show.

FACILITIES: Taft FFA AGRICULTURE BARN

Taft FFA does have a facility to house animals. Spaces are limited and are on a first come, first serve basis. Please see the Barn Contract for more details.

A&H SHOW QUEEN REPRESENTATIVE

To be eligible to run, the member must be:

- Enrolled in a High School Agriculture course;
- Meet requirements of an active member;
- Been a member of the Taft FFA/Jr. FFA Chapter for one year previous; and
- Elected by majority vote at a regularly scheduled meeting

*All representatives must meet the A&H show requirements to be eligible.

HOMECOMING PRINCE & PRINCESS

To be eligible to run, the member must be:

- Senior in High School;
- Minimum 2 years in the FFA program; and
- Have participated in an FFA event (LDE, CDE, Speaking, Livestock)

SAE RECORDBOOKS

Students have multiple opportunities for other scholarships and awards. These are attained by keeping an accurate record book. Record books may be accessed from any device with Wi-Fi including a cell phone. Agriculture Science Teachers will help guide the students and answer questions about entries. However, it is the students own responsibility to have the record book updated regularly and complete for awards.

GRADUATION CORDS FOR SENIORS

Senior FFA Members that have completed three of the following are eligible to receive a graduation cord from the FFA.

- 3 years in the FFA;
- Participate in at least two LDE, CDE, or speaking events;
- Participated in at least 3 fundraising or community service activities
- Attend a minimum of 3 Chapter meetings per year.
- Exhibit a project in a Major Livestock Show (San Antonio, Houston, Austin, Fort Worth, Heart of Texas, State Fair of Texas)
- Exhibit a project at the San Patricio County A&H Show for a minimum of 3 years

*All graduation regalia reflecting participation in the FFA organization must be provided by the Agriculture Science Teachers. Any regalia not provided by the Agriculture Science Teachers will be confiscated prior to the graduation ceremony and returned once the ceremony concludes.

SENIOR SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

There are many scholarships opportunities available through the State FFA Organization. Students who wish to apply must have been in agriculture for a minimum of 3 years and kept an accurate record book with a completed SAE. Other scholarships are available and can be discussed individually with student classes. Please see one of the Agriculture Science Teachers for more information.

THE FFA CODE OF ETHICS

FFA members conduct themselves at all times to be a credit to their organization, Chapter, school, community and family. As an FFA member,

I _____ pledge to:

1. Develop my potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success.
2. Make a positive difference in the lives of others.
3. Dress neatly and appropriately for the occasion as specified in the *Official FFA Manual* for proper use of Official Dress.
4. Respect the rights of others and their property.
5. Be courteous, honest and fair with others.
6. Communicate in an appropriate, purposeful and positive manner.
7. Demonstrate good sportsmanship by being modest in winning and generous in defeat.
8. Make myself aware of FFA programs and activities and be an active participant.
9. Conduct and value a supervised agricultural experience program.
10. Strive to establish and enhance my skills through agricultural education in order to enter a successful career.
11. Appreciate and promote diversity in our organization.

* I have read and understood the Taft FFA Student Handbook as well as the FFA Code of Ethics.

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| Student Name | Student Signature | Date |
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|-------------|------------------|------|
| Parent Name | Parent Signature | Date |
|-------------|------------------|------|