Lorain County 4-H Educational Board Constitution

Article I. Name

The name of the 4-H Affiliate shall be The Lorain County 4-H Educational Committee (referred to as the 4-H Educational Board) organized in the County of Lorain, OH. The Board shall be organized as an unincorporated association.

Article II. Purpose

The purpose of the Board shall be:

1. To ensure that 4-H, as a youth organization, is available to all youth in this County who meet the 4-H Age-Grade Policy:
   Ohio 4-H membership is based on a child's age AND grade as of January 1 of the current calendar year. Eligibility for Cloverbud participation begins when a child is age 5 and enrolled in kindergarten. Eligibility for participation in 4-H projects and competitive events begins when a child is age 8 and in third grade. Any youth aged 9 or above is eligible for project membership, regardless of grade level. Membership requires enrollment in an authorized Ohio 4-H club or group under the direction of an OSU Extension professional or an approved adult volunteer. A youth's 4-H eligibility ends December 31 the year he or she turns 19. Joining Ohio 4-H is a privilege and responsibility for individuals and is subject to the Ohio 4-H Code of Conduct and applicable policies of The Ohio State University.

2. To ensure that the 4-H Cloverbud Program as part of this organization is available to all youth in this County who reach the age of 5 and are enrolled in kindergarten as of January 1 of the current year, regardless of race, creed, color, religion, or national origin.

3. To help analyze the needs and interests of all county youth enrolled in the county 4-H program.

4. To assist with planning, evaluating, and recommending 4-H educational experiences and programs that will meet the needs and interests of these youth.

5. To assist in the recruitment and development of leadership to work with the 4-H program.

6. To seek local financial resources, as needed, to conduct, promote and expand the 4-H program.

7. The Committee is organized exclusively for charitable and educational purposes including, for such purposes, the making of distributions to organizations that qualify as exempt organizations under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code.

Article III. Ohio State University Extension Affiliation

The Committee agrees to comply with all applicable OSU Extension policies and procedures governing Ohio 4-H and agrees that the County 4-H Youth Development Professional has all necessary and proper authority to oversee the Committee to ensure the Committee's compliance. OSU Extension is authorized to include the Committee in a group tax exemption, and the Committee will supply all necessary documentation to ensure the Committee's inclusion in a group tax exemption.

Article IV. Policies

Section A. Any major decisions of the Committee must be voted on by 2/3 of the membership unless the Executive committee was authorized to make the decision. Major decisions include:

1. Amendment of this constitution
2. Financial disbursement from the treasury
3. To appoint a board member if a position is vacated.

Article V. Membership

Section A. Members - The Committee members shall consist of nine (9) term positions and ex-officio members. Three of the nine positions will rotate off the board at the end of each year. Ideally three board member positions should be held by youth: one rotating off each year. The ex-officio members are the County Extension 4-H Professionals. Ex officio members shall not be permitted to vote.

Should a board member be unable to complete their term, the board may appoint an individual to complete the term.

Section B. Eligibility –Any officially enrolled and approved adult or 4-H youth in good standing may apply to be a board member.

Section C. Applications – Interested individuals will complete an application process in October. Applicants will be notified by the end of the year of their application status.

Section D. Applications will be reviewed and approved by the current Educational Board through a blind review process.

Section E. Term of Office –Members will serve a three-year term. A member may choose to reapply once after their term expires, to serve a maximum of six consecutive years.

Section F. The Committee will meet the standards of usage to protect the 4-H Name & Emblem as set by 4-H National Headquarters.

Article VI. Officers and Officer Elections, and Duties

Section A. The officers of the Committee are Chair, Vice-Chair 1, and Vice Chair 2. They shall be elected for a term of one (1) year.

Section B. Officer Nomination and Elections will occur at the November meeting.

Section C. Officers shall perform duties as follows:

- Chair- Prepare monthly agendas and send out to the membership at least one week prior to the meeting. Provide guidance and structure to the meeting.
- Vice-Chair 1- Maintain meeting notes and send out to the membership one week prior to the next meeting.
- Vice-Chair 2- Maintain financial responsibilities on behalf of the board. Be available to run the meeting or take minutes in the absence of the chair or Vice-chair 1.

If an officer resigns or can no longer serve as an officer, the members will select a replacement.

Article VII. Committees

Section A. The Executive committee will be made up of the Chair, Vice-Chair 1, Vice Chair 2, and one Youth Representative. This committee shall make any business decisions that must be made prior to the next regular business meeting. Committee members may also delegate decisions to this group.

Section B. Standing committees are organized by the following project areas:

- Large animal- Cattle, Dairy, Sheep, Goat, and Swine Projects
- Small animal- Fowl, Rabbits, Cavies, Cats, Dog, and Pocket Pets Projects
- Horse- Saddle, Draft, Small Equine and Ponies Projects
- Family & Consumer Sciences (FCS)- Clothing and Food & Nutrition Projects
- Ag and Still-Life Projects- Leadership, Natural Resources, STEM, Shooting Sports and all other Projects not listed.

Article VIII. Financial Reporting and Responsibilities

Section A. The Ohio 4-H fiscal year is defined as January 1 through December 31.

Section B. The Committee will obtain and maintain its own Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN), also known as Employee Identification Number (EIN).

Section C. The Committee Annual Financial Report in the format requested by OSU Extension must be submitted to the County Extension office every year by the date established by OSU Extension.

Section D. An annual IRS 990 filing (Form 990, 990EZ, or 990N, depending on Committee revenue) must be completed by May 15 for the previous tax year.

Article IX. Use of Committee Revenue

No part of the net earnings of the Committee shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to its members, trustees, officers, or other private persons, except that the Committee shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth in Article II. above. No substantial part of the activities of the Committee shall be the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the Committee shall not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of or in opposition to any candidate for public office. Notwithstanding any other provision of this constitution the Committee shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on (a) by a corporation or unincorporated association exempt from federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or (b) by a corporation, or unincorporated association contributions to which are deductible under section 170(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code.

Article X. Dissolution

Upon the dissolution of the Committee assets shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or shall be distributed to the federal government, or to a state or local government, for a public purpose. Any such assets not so disposed of shall be disposed of by a Court of Competent Jurisdiction of the county in which the principal office of the corporation is then located, exclusively for such purposes or to such organization or organizations, as said Court shall determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes.

This constitution has been adopted by the members of 4-H Educational Committee

On (date) December 18, 2023

Signature _____ Date_____

Print name Scott Hamker
Committee Chair

Signature _____ Date_____

Print name Dawn Handrosh
Committee Member