



The sections indicated with an RL must be included as written in this template. The sections indicated with an RS indicate the subject must be included but modifications to the template language are allowed. Sections with an O are optional. All by-law revisions must be approved by the State 4-H Director or designee.

Article I Membership	
RL	Section 1 – Introduction
	Membership in the Kern County 4-H Council shall be active, ex-officio and honorary, and open to all persons without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender, gender expression, identity, pregnancy (which includes pregnancy, childbirth, and medical conditions related to pregnancy or childbirth), physical or mental disability, medical condition (cancer-related or genetic characteristics), genetic information (including family medical history), ancestry, marital status, age, sexual orientation, citizenship or service in the uniformed services (as defined by the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994 (USERRA), as well as state military and naval service.
RS	Section 2 -- Categories, Qualifications and Designations
RL	A. <u>Active Membership</u> All 4-H adult volunteers who are appointed by the county director and actively serving in administrative, assistant, project or activity capacities in the promotion and operation of chartered 4-H units of the 4-H YDP shall be active members of the Kern County 4-H Council.
RL	1. Senior 4-H members (14 to 19 years old) shall be eligible to be active members of the 4-H Council. All senior 4-H members who are eligible shall participate as 4-H Council members with full council membership rights, but shall not serve as 4-H adult volunteers or agents of the University of California.
RL	2. Members of county, sectional, and/or state councils, committees or task forces must be appointed 4-H adult volunteers or members in good standing.
RL	B. <u>Ex-Officio Membership</u> The county director and 4-H YDP staff serving the county shall be ex-





	officio members of the council. No designation shall be necessary.
O	<p>C. Honorary Membership</p> <p>Any person who is not an active or ex-officio member, and who has made an outstanding contribution to the 4-H YDP. Honorary membership shall be designated by the issuance of a certificate by the County 4-H Council and county director.</p>
RL	<p>Section 3 -- Limitations, Privileges and Responsibilities of Adult volunteers</p> <p>A. Appointed 4-H adult volunteers shall be designated by issuance of an appointment card by the University of California Cooperative Extension county director following completion of the 4-H application, screening and orientation process. Such appointments are annually reviewed before renewal or termination by the Cooperative Extension county director.</p> <p>B. Appointed adult 4-H volunteers shall be regarded as agents of the University of California. As such, they shall be entitled to protection for actions relating to official 4-H activities and duties under the University's general personal injury and property damage liability policy. This protection is in force as long as the 4-H adult volunteer's appointment is current, and they conform to and comply with the policies of the University of California 4-H YDP when engaging in 4-H Council activities.</p> <p>C. Ex-officio and honorary members of the 4-H Council shall have the right to express opinions on any matters under discussion, but shall not be entitled to a vote.</p>
	<p>Article II Officers</p>
RS	<p>Section 1 -- Officer Positions</p>
RS	<p>The officers of the County 4-H Council shall consist of a President, Vice-President, Secretary, treasurer, as the 4-H Council deems necessary. These officers will make up the Executive Committee.</p> <p>Senior members may hold offices, except those of president or treasurer.</p>
O	<p>Other officers either elected or appointed such as immediate past president, reporter, historian and organizational unit leader.</p>





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<p>RS</p>	<p>Section 2 -- Eligibility and Term of Office</p> <p>Only active members of the County 4-H Council, shall be eligible to hold office in the council. Office shall not be held by the same person for more than two consecutive years. A sitting officer may only serve more than two years when:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. The nominating committee can't secure another candidate to run for office. B. No other council members petition to be placed on the ballot. C. No other nominations are called from the floor prior to balloting. <p>Elections should be held at the end of the 4-H year or soon after the beginning of the new 4-H year.</p>
<p>RS</p>	<p>Section 3 -- Duties of Officers</p>
<p>RS</p>	<p>A. <u>President</u></p> <p>It shall be the duty of the president to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preside over all regular and special meetings of the County 4-H Council. • Serve as ex-officio member of all committees of the County 4-H Council and appoint the members of such committees. • Call special meetings when necessary and in concurrence with the county 4-H YDP staff. • Prepare Executive Committee and 4-H Council meeting agendas in consultation with the county 4-H YDP staff. • Have signature authority on the 4-H Council checking account and savings account. • Have voting rights when a motion is on the floor and results in a tie vote. • Convene a complaint review committee in conjunction with 4-H staff. • Appoint committees
<p>RS</p>	<p>B. <u>Vice-President</u></p> <p>It shall be the duty of the vice president to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preside at all meetings in the absence of the president. • To succeed to the office of President if that office should become vacant between elections. • Serve as chairman of the 4-H Council Program Committee. • Have signature authority on the 4-H Council checking account and savings account.





RS	<p>C. <u>Secretary</u></p> <p>It shall be the duty of the secretary to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Record the full and complete minutes of all meetings of the 4-H Council, and assist with any and all correspondence as directed by the president. Motions made during the meeting and the result thereof should be accurately documented and recorded. • Provide a set of all 4-H Council minutes to the county 4-H YDP staff the week following each council meeting. These minutes will be made available to the membership at large with no exceptions. • Keep a record of those present at the 4-H Council meeting (units and other individuals). • Have signature authority on the 4-H Council checking account and savings account
O	<p>The offices of secretary and treasurer may be combined into one office.</p>
RS	<p>D. <u>Treasurer</u></p> <p>It shall be the duty of the treasurer to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep accurate financial records, copies of invoices bills, etc., relating to the funds and property of the 4-H Council and account fully for all receipts and expenditures. • Receive, record and deposit all funds in a regulated bank or similar financial institution to the account established for the 4-H Council. • Pay bills and make other authorized expenditures appropriated in the budget or otherwise approved by the 4-H Council. • Secure authorization by the 4-H Council for disbursement of all funds. • Comply with all University of California financial policies and procedures as outlined in the 4-H YDP Policy Handbook. • Furnish financial reports annually at year-end, or by September 15, and at such times as required by the 4-H Council and/or the county director. Financial reports include a balance sheet and a statement of revenues and expenses (income statement). • Act as custodian of all funds and personal property of the 4-H Council, and keep a current list of all such property. • Prepare all financial records for an annual audit or peer review. • Have signature authority on the 4-H Council checking account and savings account.





O	<p>E. <u>Reporter/Historian</u></p> <p>It shall be the duty of the reporter/historian to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide external communications with media (e.g., radio, newspapers, etc.). • Provide internal communications via a county 4-H newsletter with members, participants, 4-H adult volunteers and 4-H YDP staff regarding 4-H Council activities. • Provide training, support and assistance to 4-H unit reporters and historians in the visibility and public relations area.
RS	<p>Section 4 – Conducting By Executive Committee</p> <p>A. By majority vote of those present at a regular meeting, the 4-H Council will determine whether it will conduct business by Executive Committee for the current year. If it is so determined, the Executive Committee will consist of the 4-H Council officers of the current 4-H YDP program year (July 1st-June 30th), and as many additional active members as it deems necessary. Each member shall have one vote. The 4-H YDP staff and county director shall be ex-officio members.</p>
RS	<p>B. <u>Duties of Executive Committee</u></p> <p>It shall be the duties of the Executive Committee to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider and recommend to the county council practices or procedures needed for effective and efficient management of the county 4-H YDP. After approved by the 4-H Council, they should be recorded and accessible to the membership. • The Executive Committee may be authorized to act for the 4-H Council in making decisions when immediate action relating to the local 4-H YDP program is necessary. Any major action of the Executive Committee should be subject to the approval of the 4-H Council at its next regular meeting. • The Executive Committee may assist the president in arranging the agenda for the 4-H Council meetings, the appointment of committees, and such other matters as may facilitate the orderly and efficient operation of the county 4-H Council and the county 4-H YDP program.
RL	<p>C. <u>Executive Committee Quorum</u></p> <p>A quorum is 50% plus one of the members of Executive Committee. No</p>





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	meetings or business shall be transacted without a quorum.
	Article III Elections
RL	<p>Section 1 – Nominations</p> <p>A nominating committee shall nominate officers of the 4-H Council. Additional nominations shall be called for from the floor before balloting begins.</p>
RS	<p>Section 2 – Balloting for Officers</p> <p>Elections shall take place by written ballot unless the 4-H Council by majority vote of those present specifies otherwise. Balloting shall be limited to active members. The person receiving a plurality of the votes cast for each office shall be declared elected.</p> <p>Section 3- Tallying:</p> <p>A committee of five members of council, not to include candidates or their immediate family members, shall be appointed by the President to count the ballots. One person shall be selected as Chairman to read the ballots aloud. Two people will sit on either side of the chairman and record the results as read. The other two members of the committee shall stand behind the three seated persons and observe, checking to see that the reading and recording are accurate. All members of the committee shall sign the report when they are sure that it is an accurate accounting.</p> <p>The ballots shall be sealed in an envelope and filed in the Extension office immediately following the counting.</p> <p>The results of the election shall be announced at the end of the counting. The Council meeting may be adjourned before the counting is completed. Those wishing to remain for the announcement are welcome to do so.</p> <p>Those wishing a re-count of the votes must request one within 24 hours of the announcement of the results. The request should be made to the 4-H staff person in charge. Or to the Council President. The president will appoint a new tallying committee to recount the ballots and make a written report.</p> <p>The official acceptance or rejection of the tallying committee(s) report(s) will be called for at the Council meeting following the election.</p>
	Article IV Meetings





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RS	<p>Section 1 -- Regular Meetings</p> <p>There shall be at least one (1) regular meeting of the 4-H Council each program year (July 1st-June 30th). These meetings shall be held the 4th Tuesday of the month, except for the months of September and December unless otherwise specified by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of all units represented (one vote per unit).</p>
RL	<p>Section 2 -- Special Meetings</p> <p>The president, acting in concurrence with the 4-H YDP staff, may call special meetings at any time.</p>
RL	<p>Section 3 -- Training Meetings</p> <p>No 4-H Council business shall be transacted at training meetings unless the 4-H Council so directs.</p>
RL	<p>Section 4 -- Meeting Notices</p> <p>Notices of all meetings of the 4-H Council shall be provided to adult volunteers and senior members by or in conjunction with 4-H YDP staff.</p>
RS	<p>Section 5 – Agenda</p> <p>The agenda of each regular or special 4-H meeting shall be prepared jointly by the president and the 4-H YDP staff.</p>
RL	<p>Section 6 – Attendance</p> <p>No meetings of the 4-H Council or its committees shall be secret. Honorary members, parents and 4-H members who are not active members of the 4-H Council as defined in Article I, Section 3, and other invited and/or approved visitors may attend 4-H Council meetings and express opinions, but shall not be entitled to vote.</p>
RS	<p>Section 7 – Quorum for Council Regular & Special Meetings</p> <p>A quorum at regular and special meetings of the 4-H Council shall consist of those active members who attend the meeting, provided the meeting has been properly called and unless otherwise specified in the bylaws. No meetings or business shall be transacted without a quorum.</p>
RS	<p>Section 8 - Voting</p>





	Voting privileges shall be extended to all active members of the 4-H Council.
	Article V Finances
RL	<p>Section 1-- Council Funds</p> <p>Use of 4-H Council funds must be in accordance with the University of California policies and 4-H YDP mission and core values as interpreted by the 4-H YDP staff. (See 4-H Handbook, Chapter 9, Financial Management.) The county UCCE/4-H office will be the legal mailing address for the county 4-H Council.</p>
RL	<p>Section 2 -- Money-Raising Activities</p> <p>All money-raising activities for the 4-H Council, for committees and for individual 4-H units shall be in compliance with the policies of the University of California, 4-H YDP and federal, state and local laws and regulations. Annual fundraising must be approved by the county director. Particular care shall be exercised in the use of the 4-H name and emblem. Use of the 4-H name and emblem on articles sold for profit and in solicitations for commercial enterprises in the name of the 4-H YDP must be approved by the county director or State 4-H YDP Director, as appropriate. Lotteries and raffles shall not be used for fund-raising purposes.</p>
RL	<p>Section 3 –Taxes</p> <p>The 4-H Council shall comply with all University of California policies and procedures, as well as all federal, state and local laws, and shall require all committees and individual 4-H units and groups to follow similar procedures.</p>
RL	<p>Section 4 – Contracts</p> <p>The 4-H Council cannot commit the University to any contractual obligations.</p>
RL	<p>Section 5 – Assets</p> <p>Assets received or raised by the 4-H Council must be utilized in the delivery of the county 4-H YDP and are under the administrative purview of the University of California. Investments must follow University of California policies and procedures and by approval of the county director.</p>
RL	<p>Section 6 – Dissolution of 4-H Council</p>





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	In the event the Kern County 4-H Council is dissolved, all assets (including equipment, property, bank accounts, etc.) are the responsibility of the University of California and shall be transferred to the county director or designee. The county director or designee will hold any unrestricted assets in escrow for up to three (3) years pending re-establishment of the council before distributing the assets for support of the county 4-H YDP. Restricted assets would continue to be dispersed according to donor designations under the oversight of the county director or designee.
RL	Section 7 – Disbanding of 4-H Units In the event a chartered 4-H unit is disbanded, all assets (including equipment, property, bank accounts, etc.) shall be transferred to the county 4-H Council to be held in escrow for three (3) years pending re-establishment of the unit before distributing the assets in support of the county 4-H YDP.
	Article VI Committees
RS	Section 1 The 4-H Council may establish committees such as program, finance, fairs and shows, awards, leadership development and other such committees as it considers necessary.
RL	Section 2 The 4-H Council president and/or Executive Committee shall appoint all members of the committees and name the chair of each committee. All committees should adhere to the mission, core values and policies of the University of California 4-H YDP when planning educational events and activities. When possible, senior members should be appointed.
RL	Section 3 Committees must be given clear, definite instructions about their duties or assignments, how long they are to take and to whom, when and what they are to report. In carrying out their assignments, they should accurately interpret their jobs from instructions given in the bylaws, from recorded minutes of meetings or from suggestions of the 4-H Council president and/or 4-H YDP staff.
RL	Section 4





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	<p>Committees should keep the 4-H Council informed by giving reports as to their plans, what they are doing and how they are functioning.</p> <p>Committees should coordinate all activities through the 4-H Council and the 4-H YDP staff. County 4-H YDP staff and the county director have final authority for the administration and operation of the county 4-H YDP program.</p>
	<p>Article VII Amendments</p>
RL	<p>Section 1 – Procedure</p> <p>Amendments to the Bylaws may be made by the 4-H Council with approval by the 4-H YDP staff and the county director providing they do not depart from the intent of the Constitution and Bylaws as herein stated, and provided they do not change any of the required language (RL) sections. All proposed changes to required (RL) sections must be submitted by the county director to the State 4-H YDP Director before final approval of the 4-H Council. Amendments shall be read at a regular meeting or special meeting of the 4-H Council one month in advance of final action, or shall be sent in a letter to every member at least one week before final action. All revisions must be filed with the county and State 4-H Office.</p>
RL	<p>Section 2 – Voting</p> <p>Amendments to the Bylaws may be passed by a two-thirds vote of the voting members present, providing the above procedure has been followed.</p>
	<p>Article VIII Adoption</p>
RL	<p>Section 1</p> <p>The adoption of these Bylaws shall be concurrent with the adoption of the Constitution of the 4-H Council. The effective date shall be upon the approval of the 4-H Council and that date shall be stamped on each page of the Bylaws.</p>

4-H Council President (date)

4-H YDP Staff (date)



Kern County 4-H Council Bylaws Template

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University of California
Agriculture and Natural Resources



County Director (date)

State 4-H YDP Director (date)

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