CONSTITUTION
of the
Maryland 4-H All Stars, Inc.

Article I – Name

The name of this organization shall be the Maryland 4-H All Stars, Inc.

Article II – Purpose

The Maryland 4-H All Stars, Inc. shall be an independent organization established for the purpose of honoring and recognizing outstanding 4-H club members and/or volunteers who have displayed characteristics of service, character and leadership.

Article III – Objectives

This organization shall serve to encourage initiative and service on the part of Maryland 4-H Youth Development Program and or associates through both individual and cooperative efforts. It shall strive to recognize those 4-H club members and volunteers who have maintained high ideals and who have obtained the "four-fold life" through unselfish service to others. The motto of this organization is SERVICE and it shall stand ready to lend its aid to any worthy cause. Each member shall be expected to make a personal application of this motto.

Article IV – Membership

Section 1 – The general qualifications for membership in the Maryland 4-H All Stars, Inc. shall be that the candidate must be a person of sterling character; maintain high ideals and ethics; be loyal, resourceful, responsible, with a sense of understanding the viewpoints and needs of others; have a record of leadership and service; be one who through sincere interest and participation in support of 4-H youth development program work and community activities works for the progress of the group as a whole and not for self-gain; and be one who demonstrates a practical application of the personal motto, "I serve." Membership in the Maryland 4-H All Stars, Inc. may be revoked upon proof and conviction of gross misconduct or illegal activities.

Section 2 – No prospective nominee may independently seek the honor of membership, but they must have it conferred upon them through their county/city chapter (if active) or there needs to be verification from the county/city 4-H office (if not active).

Section 3 – The classification of membership in the Maryland ~~Chapter of~~ 4-H All Stars, Inc. shall be two (2) in number. They shall be titled Regular Membership and Honorary Membership.

Section 4 – Regular members must have completed at least three (3) years of 4-H Youth Development work. They must be sixteen (16) years of age before January 1st of the year of their candidacy; or they must have been a member in good standing of another 4-H All Star chapter; in addition to meeting those qualifications as stated in Article IV, Section 1 of this Constitution.

Section 5 – Honorary members must have given voluntary and outstanding service to 4-H work on a county, district, state, regional or national level for at least seven (7) years in addition to meeting those qualifications in Article IV, Section 1 of this Constitution.

Section 6 – There shall be no numerical restrictions as to the number of nominees that may be recommended for Regular or Honorary membership.

Section 7 – The procedure for the nomination of individuals for Regular and Honorary membership shall be set down by the Executive Committee in conjunction with the guidelines developed by the Membership Committee.

a. This procedure must be in the hands of the respective County chairperson on or before January 1.

b. All nomination forms for Regular or Honorary membership must be in the hands of the Membership Coordinator postmarked on or before March 15th.

Section 8 – The procedure for voting on nominees for Regular and Honorary membership shall be:

a. The Membership Committee shall present a list of acceptable candidates at the Semi-Annual Conference.

b. A nominee for Regular membership must receive a seventy-five (75%) percent affirmative vote of all active members present.

c. A nominee for Honorary membership must receive a ninety (90%) percent affirmative vote of all active members present.

d. The Membership Coordinator must inform the President and the Executive Committee of the results of the vote before the Annual Conference.

Article V – Meetings

Section 1 – Two conferences shall be held each year for the purpose of conducting the business of the Maryland 4-H All Stars, Inc.

Section 2 – These conferences shall be known as the Semi-Annual Conference and the Annual Conference.

Section 3 – The Semi-Annual Conference shall be held at a time and place decided upon by the Executive Committee to accept and vote upon nominations for new members together with whatever other business may require action for the good of the Maryland 4-H All Stars, Inc.

Section 4 – The Annual Conference shall be held at a time and place decided upon by the Executive Committee for consecrating and initiating new members, the election of officers, and conducting whatever other business may require action for the good of the Maryland 4-H All Stars, Inc.

Section 5 – The chapter's year will run from Annual Conference to Annual Conference.

Section 6 – Seventy-five (75%) percent of the active Regular and Honorary members in attendance at any formal meeting or conference shall constitute a quorum for that specific formal meeting or conference.

Article VI – Ceremonies

Section 1 – The President upon receipt of the tally of votes from the Membership Coordinator as stated in Article IV Section 10(d) of this Constitution shall send to each nominee who has been selected for Regular or Honorary membership a letter of invitation to the Annual Conference for consecration and initiation into the Maryland 4-H All Stars, Inc.

Section 2 – Each nominee selected for membership shall be received in the circle in accordance with the ritual of the Consecration Service.

Section 3 – Each nominee who has been consecrated must be initiated at the first Initiation Ceremony conducted after consecration in accordance with the ritual of the Installation Ceremony.

Section 4 – The retention of copies of the Consecration and Initiation Ceremonies shall be the responsibility of the Membership Chair.

Article VII – Officers

Section 1 – The executive officers of the Maryland 4-H All Stars, Inc. shall be known as President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Membership Coordinator, Lower Shore District representative, Central Shore District representative, Upper Shore District representative, Southern District representative, Northern District representative, Central District representative and Western District representative. All officers and representatives must be active members during their terms of office.

Section 2 – The executive officers of the Maryland 4-H All Stars, Inc. shall be elected bi-annually during the Annual Conference by ballot, and a plurality of those ballots cast shall be sufficient to elect. Those officers shall not serve more than two (2) consecutive terms in one office except the Treasurer. The office of Treasurer is not limited to foster

consistency in accounting. The district representatives shall be elected by a caucus of those 4-H All Stars residing in that respective district, and the result of the caucus shall be given to the Secretary no later than the next Semi-Annual Conference.

Section 3 – A vacancy in the office of President shall be automatically filled by the Vice President.

Section 4 – A vacancy in the offices other than President shall be filled by appointment by the President with the advice and consent of the Executive Committee.

Article VIII – Committees and Non-Executive Officers

Section 1 – Executive Committee

a. Executive Committee shall consist of a President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Membership Coordinator, District Representatives, Past President (who shall serve a term of one year immediately following their term of office) a State 4-H representative, and all Committee Chairmen (standing or ad-hoc)

b. May contract an Executive Administrator with advice and consent of the membership.

c. Shall be responsible for transacting all business that should arise between the Semi-Annual and Annual Conference.

d. The following shall be Standing Committees of the organization and their chairperson(s) shall be considered non-executive members of the Executive Committee.

    a. Constitution Committee, Future Plans Committee, Audit Committee, Membership Committee, Initiation & Consecration Committee.

    b. The duties of these Committees shall be directed by the Executive Committee.

Article IX – Dues

Section 1 – The membership year for which dues shall be collected in the Maryland 4-H All Stars, Inc. shall be from Annual Conference to Annual Conference.

Section 2 – Active Regular and active Honorary All Stars are those members current in annual dues. Archived Regular and Archived Honorary All Stars are those members not current in annual dues.

Section 3 - Members who are moved to archived status can regain their active status upon the receipt of their lifetime dues.

Section 4 – Annual membership dues for both regular and honorary members shall be decided upon by the Membership Committee with the approval of the Executive Committee.

Section 5 – Life membership shall be available and these amounts shall be decided upon by the Membership Committee with the approval of the Executive Committee.

Section 6– All dues are to be paid only to the Treasurer or the Treasurer's designated representative.

Section 7 – The membership shall be notified at the Annual Conference of the annual dues and lifetime dues amounts, and this information shall be published in each edition of the Maryland Trail.

Article X – Amendments

Section 1 – An amendment to this Constitution must first be presented to the Constitution Committee for their discussion and interpretation no less than 30 days prior to next formal meeting or conference.

Section 2 – The amendment must be presented by the Chairperson of the Constitution Committee in writing to the membership at the next formal meeting or conference for a vote.

Section 3 – A quorum number as stated in Article V Section 6 of this Constitution shall be required for approval.

Section 4 – If approved, copies of the amendment must accompany the announcement of the next meeting or conference.

Section 5 – The amendment must be presented to the membership by the Chairperson of the Constitution Committee in writing at the next conference for a final vote.

Section 6 – The amendment shall become immediately operative.

Constitution approval – Fall Conference 1981
Revised 18 June 2022
Revised 07 June 2025