

Fossil Ridge High School Student Council Constitution

Preamble

We, the students of Fossil Ridge High School, in order to promote a democratic relationship with the student body, faculty, clubs, and special interest groups, do hereby establish this constitution. The Constitution of the Fossil Ridge High School Student Council will govern the activities and duties, define policy, and address the concerns of the student body.

Article I - Name

Section 1. The name of the organization shall be Fossil Ridge High School Student Council.

Article II - General Purposes

The general purposes of the Fossil Ridge High School Student Council as a representative form of government are to:

Section 1. Voice and elicit student opinion and to work for the well-being of the members of the Fossil Ridge High School community as a whole brought forward by the student body.

Section 2. Provide a direct channel of communication between the students and staff of Fossil Ridge High School.

Section 3. Promote the understanding of the roles and responsibilities of leadership for students to learn and achieve.

Section 4. Sponsor and organize activities involving the members of Fossil Ridge High School in order to promote a more enjoyable atmosphere at school for all students.

Article III - Powers Invested in the Organization

The powers of the Fossil Ridge High School Student Council, being allowed by the administration, faculty, and the student body are as follows:

Section 1. Student Council may initiate an all-school or class assembly or activity if asked by a class and/or club.

Section 2. The Student Council Advisor will monitor and calendar all activities of Fossil Ridge High School not under the jurisdiction of the office through a system of activity requests.

Section 3. Student Council will take all appropriate measures needed to voice a student's concern.

Section 4. Any issue deemed critical by the president and/or the council may be taken to the student body before any final voting is done.

Section 5. Student Council will make and govern policy of the student body.

Article IV - Membership

Section 1. The Student Council can include up to 40 voting members. There will be 7 officers, 8 seniors, 8 juniors, and 8 sophomores and 8 appointed freshmen, and there can be one additional appointed position.

Section 2. The following are the officer positions: President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary, Sergeant of Arms, Social Chairperson, and Historian.

Section 3. The member appointed by the advisor, with input from the officers, will have voting privileges and receive credit for the class. Appointed members are on probation and will sign a document outlining the terms of their probation and can be asked to resign from Student Council without a two-thirds vote of the Council itself at any time.

Article V - Elections

Section 1. Voting Procedure: All Student Council Representative and Royalty elections will take place during advisory on an assigned election day. Only the current members of Student Council will be allowed to vote in Executive Board Elections.

Clause 1. Student Council officers will be in charge of the following elections unless they themselves are a candidate: Student Council Officers, Student Council Class Officers and Representatives.

Clause 2. If a tie should occur, there will be a run-off election between the candidates involved as soon after the original election as possible.

Clause 3. All candidates must have at least a 2.50 GPA to participate in all Student Council Elections. Students must maintain a 2.50 GPA to remain in Student Council from semester to semester.

Clause 4. All students will vote for representatives in their class only.

Clause 5. Campaign Rules:

*Candidates may spend up to \$50.00 for an election campaign.

*Candidates may distribute as many stickers/fliers (under 3" X 5") as they wish. They can also be penalized in the election for excessive littering of their materials.

*Candidates may display no more than three election posters of normal poster size. All posters must be hung in designated areas specified by the administration.

*No offensive and/or obscene language will be allowed.

*PA endorsement announcements, Ridge TV advertising, and usage of the school newspaper will not be allowed.

*Campaigns will be conducted in a professional manner.

Section 2. Election Ballots and Results.

- Clause 1. Ballots will be distributed by advisor/officers to the appropriate advisory classes or during a small election assembly. The current officers and advisor will be responsible for making sure that all classes have received ballots.
- Clause 2. No write-in candidates will be counted during a Student Council sponsored election.
- Clause 3. All ballots for the election will be counted after all class ballots have been accounted for and all are turned in. They will be counted by at least two persons, including one officer and the advisor.
- Clause 4. Election results (except Royalty elections) will be made available as soon as all ballots have been counted.
- Clause 5. All ballots will be kept for six weeks following each election, along with interview sheets, candidates names, and official final results.
- Clause 6. A candidate who loses in any election may see the official results and final ranking of their election thirty days after the actual election date. Those candidates elected may not view the results until after the induction program at the end of the school year (due to specific awards).

- Clause 7. A recount will be done only if asked for by a petition signed by 50% of the voters in that election. This petition will only be honored if submitted within one calendar week of the election in question.
- Clause 8. There will be no revote unless sufficient evidence and a petition of the above specification are presented. Only Student Council Officers may initiate a revote using these requirements to reach a decision.
- Clause 9. Any student desiring an absentee ballot needs to make a written request to the Vice-President of the council 3 days prior to the election day absence. The absence of the student will be validated and the student will be allowed to vote prior to the regularly scheduled election.

Section 3. Student Council Officers.

- Clause 1. The candidate for President must be a senior or junior and the Vice-President must be a senior or junior the following year. All candidates for President must have one full year of experience (2 complete semesters) prior to the election. All other officers will be elected from the future senior, junior, or sophomore classes and must have at least one full semester of experience.
- Clause 2. The election of officers will take place in the spring prior to Spring Break.
- Clause 3. All current Student Council members will be the only voting members involved in the Officer Election and must be present during all speeches in order to cast a vote.
- Clause 4. The new officers will take office after an induction ceremony held at the end of the school year.
- Clause 5. All elected officers are required to be enrolled in Student Council for the entire school year in which the election takes place.

Section 4. Members.

- Clause 1. If more than 40 students sign up for Student Council, school elections will be held to elect members by popular vote. This will be done after class registration for the next school year.
- Clause 2. Freshman candidates will be chosen through an interview and application process. No student body election will be held to

decide the future freshman members.

Section 5. Class Officers.

- Clause 1. Sophomore, Junior and Senior Class Officer elections will be held in conjunction with the Student Council Representative elections and positions will be assigned through the preference process.
- Clause 2. All candidates for the offices of President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary, and Representative, may be anyone from that class.

Section 6. General Homecoming and Prom Royalty Elections.

- Clause 1. There will be a preliminary and final election for Homecoming royalty during designated advisory classes.
- Clause 2. The number of Homecoming Royalty Court nominees may include whatever number the planning committee decides.
- Clause 3. All nominees must meet CHSAA academic requirements during the semester of the nomination and have no concerning discipline issues.
- Clause 4. Prom royalty preliminary elections will take place in designated senior Advisory classes. Final balloting for Prom royalty will take place during ticket sales. Only students attending Prom may vote for Prom royalty.

Article VI - Frequency of Meetings

- Section 1. Regular meetings will be held as scheduled by the President or Advisor.
- Section 2. Special meetings may be called at any time by the President or Advisor.
- Section 3. All regular meetings will be run by Parliamentary Procedure as manifested in Robert's Rule of Order.

Article VII - Member Duties and Responsibilities

- Section 1. All members will be graded and expected to do the following as a member:
 - a. Be present at all required functions.
 - b. Plan yearly student activities approved by the Student Council.

- c. Keep and represent an assigned class' views and bring up these ideas in the meetings.
- d. Be an active member of a specific committee and carry out all jobs assigned to or carried out by that committee.
- e. Members must pay at all required events at the advisor's request.
- f. Student Council members must support all activities sponsored by Student Council.
- g. All members must maintain a 2.5 GPA at semester to maintain their position.
- h. All members will complete and be graded on academic assignments given by the advisor.
- i. All members will be responsible for maintaining a positive role in leadership throughout the building and community

Section 2. Standing Committee responsibilities are as follows:

- a. Plan and carry out specified activities and projects.
- b. Communicate with the faculty, community, other clubs, organizations, and schools, to promote positive public relations.
- c. Participate in and improve the morale and spirit at non-fundraiser activities.
- d. Organize each event appropriately and keep accurate evaluations and event folders for the following years.
- e. Pass all activities run by the Student Council at least two weeks in advance of the selected event date.

Clause 1. These are the primary functions of these committees and are subject to change or dismissal. Committee membership will be subject to rotation.

Clause 2. Various ad hoc committees will be formed during the year. Members will be pulled from other standing committees to form these special committees.

Section 3. The Executive Board will consist of all Officers and Committee Heads.

Clause 1. The Executive Board will decide and make emergency decisions for the Student Council, construct agendas, decide discipline, and evaluate activities and committees.

Clause 2. Officer duties are defined as follows and are subject to change and revision at any time by a 2/3 majority vote:

- a. Monitor and head various ad hoc committees.
- b. Be permanent members of the executive board.
- c. Correspond with faculty, community, other clubs, organizations, and schools.

- d. Run all elections that are Council sponsored with the Advisor.
- e. Become a temporary committee as needed to plan events
- f. Subject to discipline other than impeachment as recommended by any Student Council Officer, representative, or Advisor, for not fulfilling his or her given duties and responsibilities as seen fit by a 2/3 majority vote of the Student Council.

- Clause 3. The PRESIDENT runs regular and executive board meetings when possible, appoints ad hoc committees, sets the example for the council, monitors officers, arranges student exchanges if wanted, and has the veto power over any item passed by the Council. This veto may be overridden by a 2/3 vote by the Council at the meeting where the veto occurred and/or at the next regular meeting.
- Clause 4. The VICE-PRESIDENT serves in the place of the President in his or her absence, helps the Secretary with duties, reads and is in charge of all activity requests, orders and maintains all supplies, and plans middle school leadership day. The Vice-President succeeds the President in the case of a vacancy even if the Vice-President is a junior at the time of vacancy.
- Clause 5. The SECRETARY takes daily attendance, writes the agendas, keeps the official files organized, types the minutes, and handles the official paperwork of the Council.
- Clause 6. The TREASURER is consistently in contact with the bookkeeper's office, keeps the Council's running account balances, keeps all financial records, oversees all fundraisers, teaches all members of the appropriate handling and mailing of all financial documents, and is financial advisor to the entire Student Council.
- Clause 7. The SOCIAL CHAIRPERSON is in charge of planning all events exclusively for the Student Council, such as but not limited to retreats and ad hoc entertainment.
- Clause 8. The SARGEANT OF ARMS maintains classroom order, admonishes disruptive and inappropriate behavior, and begins class daily. The sergeant at arms is also responsible for leading the council and school in establishing and supporting the school in all activities.

Clause 9. The HISTORIAN is in charge of documenting all events that FRHS Student Council puts on, including but not limited to taking photographs and making scrapbooks.

Section 4. The Advisor's duties must include but are not limited to the following:

- a. He/she cannot vote but can interject opinion and advise the Council during any time of a meeting.
- b. Assume the role of a disciplinarian and teacher if the class becomes overpowering and/or out of order.
- c. May hand pick up to one member of the Council by any method suitable
- d. Act as a messenger from the administration and faculty to the Council.
- e. Act as a counselor if needed.

Article VIII - Ratification

Section 1. The method of ratification for the constitution will be:

- a. Pass the first constitution within the first quarter of the year.
- b. Discuss and change the constitution the following meeting, and then ratify the final draft.
- c. Upon a 2/3 majority vote by the Council, the constitution will become effective immediately.
- d. All rules of regulation included in the constitution are formal from the time the constitution is passed one year to the ratification of that constitution the next.

Article IX - Constitution

Section 1. This Constitution, a permanent and vital part of the Student Council, will be kept from year to year.

Section 2. All members of Student Council will receive a constitution within the first quarter of their involvement.

Section 3. This Constitution may be amended at any regular meeting provided the proposed amendment has been submitted in writing at the last regular meeting and members of Student Council have discussed the amendment thoroughly. A 2/3 majority vote is required to adopt the amendment. All officers are responsible for the drafting of and official changing of the amendment on the Constitution.

Article X - Rules of Conduct

- Section 1. A student's behavior in all classes must reflect leadership. Any report from a faculty member will result in a behavioral/conduct warning and probation. The second report will result in a five day suspension from Student Council during which no points will be able to be made up and the student will still attend class. The third report will obligate a resignation.
- Section 2. Any member who is proven to be using drugs and/or alcohol at ANY TIME will be immediately removed from any Council position without a vote.
- Section 3. Any member who is subject to allegations of use of drugs and/or alcohol will receive probation for the remainder of the semester in which the incident occurred. A second violation of ANY KIND will result in a mandated resignation.
- Section 4. All members can be brought before the Council at any time and removed from a position with a 2/3 majority vote if they are not fulfilling their duties and responsibilities as a member. The member in question will not be present during any discussion or voting.

Article XI - Position Vacancies

- Section 1. The position of Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer, will be filled by an in-Council vote.
- Section 2. Representative vacancies will be filled by the advisor by one of the following choices and must be able to fit Student Council into their schedules:
- a. By the alternate in the election itself if he or she is fit for the position as determined by the Advisor and President.
 - b. By a member of the student body who has shown amazing leadership potential since the beginning of the school year.
 - c. By a past member of Council with prior experience.

Article XII - Lettering

- Section 1. In order to letter in Student Council, members must meet four of the following five requirements:
- a. Must be enrolled in Student Council for the full year.
 - b. Must have a grade point average of 3.0
 - c. Must have attended at least 80% of all Student Council sponsored events during their involvement.
 - d. Must have no more than two unexcused absences per semester.

e. Must have the approval of the Advisor.

Section 2. The Advisor will approve the lettering of a Council member if:

- a. They have no B quarter averages.
- b. They have no warnings or conduct concerns.
- c. They have personal leadership incentive.
- d. They have completed their term in office.
- e. They have attended some form of leadership training outside of FRHS.
- f. They are a consistent role model to their peers.