

Young Americans for Freedom Chapter Constitution

Article I. Name Of Organization

1. The name of this organization shall be: Young Americans for Freedom,

(hereinafter referred to as the “Chapter”)

1. The Chapter operates under the auspices of the national Young Americans for Freedom, which is a project of Young America’s Foundation, 11480 Commerce Park Dr, Reston, Virginia 20191, (800-USA-1776, [http://www.yaf.org/),](http://www.yaf.org/%29) a

Virginia nonprofit corporation, exempt from federal income taxation under § 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Article II.Organization Affiliation:

As outlined in the RSO Classification Policy, Young Americans for Freedom is considered a General Registered Student

Organization. As a GRSO, our organization is a separate 3rd party entity, not considered a part of the University of

Florida. Through registering with the University, our student group agrees to follow its policies and operate on campus with access and/or eligibility for specific campus benefits.

Article III. Purpose Statement:

The purposes of this Chapter are as follows:

1. To provide an organizational framework to promote the general principles of Young Americans for Freedom which were adopted in Sharon, Connecticut on September 11, 1960, as follows:

In this time of moral and political crises, it is the responsibility of the youth of America to affirm certain eternal truths.

We, as young conservatives, believe:

That foremost among the transcendent values is the individual's use of his God-given free will, whence derives his right to be

free from the restrictions of arbitrary force;

That liberty is indivisible, and that political freedom cannot long exist without economic freedom;

That the purpose of government is to protect those freedoms through the preservation of internal order, the provision of national defense, and the administration of justice;

That when government ventures beyond these rightful functions, it accumulates power, which tends to diminish order and liberty;

That the Constitution of the United States is the best arrangement yet devised for empowering government to fulfill its proper role, while restraining it from the concentration and abuse of power;

That the genius of the Constitution- the division of powers- is summed up in the clause that reserves primacy to the several states, or to the people, in those spheres not specifically delegated to the Federal government;

That the market economy, allocating resources by the free play

of supply and demand, is the single economic system compatible with the requirements of personal freedom and constitutional government, and that it is at the same time the most productive

supplier of human needs;

That when government interferes with the work of the market economy, it tends to reduce the moral and physical strength of the nation; that when it takes from one man to bestow on

another, it diminishes the incentive of the first, the integrity of the second, and the moral autonomy of both;

That we will be free only so long as the national sovereignty of the United States is secure; that history shows periods of freedom are rare, and can exist only when free citizens concertedly defend their rights against all enemies;

That the forces of international Communism are, at present, the greatest single threat to these liberties;

That the United States should stress victory over, rather than coexistence with, this menace; and

That American foreign policy must be judged by this criterion: does it serve the just interests of the United States?

1. To conduct educational activities and provide conservative leadership to bring about the objectives outlined in the Sharon Statement.
2. To assist students in their efforts to understand and promote conservatism on campus and in the surrounding community.

Article IV. Compliance Statement & University Regulations

Upon approval by the Department of Student Engagement, Young Americans for Freedom shall be a registered student organization at the University of Florida. Young Americans for Freedom shall comply with all local, state and federal laws, as well as all University of Florida regulations, policies, and procedures. Such compliance includes but is not limited to the University’s regulations related to

Non-Discrimination, Sexual Harassment (including sexual misconduct, dating violence, domestic violence, and stalking), Hazing, Commercial Activity, and Student Leader Eligibility.

Section A. Non-Discrimination

Young Americans for Freedom agrees that it will not

discriminate on the basis of race, creed, color, religion, age, disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, marital status, national origin, political opinions or affiliations, genetic information and veteran status as protected under the Vietnam Era Veterans' Readjustment Assistance Act. Discrimination on the basis of the protected classes described in University of Florida

Regulation 1.006 (Non-Discrimination/Harassment/Invasion of Privacy Policies) is prohibited.

Section B. Sexual Harassment

Young Americans for Freedom agrees that it will not engage in any activity that is unwelcome conduct of sexual nature that creates a hostile environment. Behaviors that could create a

hostile environment include sexual harassment (which could include inappropriate sexual comments), sexual misconduct, dating violence, domestic violence, and stalking and repeated instances of cyber abuse. Sexual harassment as described in University of Florida Regulation 1.006

(Non-Discrimination/Harassment/Invasion of Privacy Policy) is prohibited.

Section C. Hazing

Young Americans for Freedom agrees that it will not initiate, support, or encourage any events or situations that recklessly, by design, or intentionally endanger the mental or physical health

or safety of a student for any purpose including but not limited

to initiation or admission into or affiliation with any student group or organization. Hazing as defined in the University of Florida Regulation 1.0081 (Prohibition of Hazing; Procedures and Penalties) and 4.040 (Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code) is prohibited. If found responsible for hazing, sanctions may be imposed against the organization, its leaders and/or members.

Section D. Responsibility to Report

The University of Florida identifies Responsible Employees and Campus Security Authorities to support the health, safety, and wellbeing of campus. If Young Americans for Freedom becomes aware of any such conduct described in this article, they are encouraged to report it immediately to staff in Student Engagement, the Director of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution, the University’s Title IX Coordinator, or to their Student Organization Advisor, who are identified as mandated reporters.

Section E. Officer Eligibility

Young Americans for Freedom understands, acknowledges, and agrees to uphold and abide by the specific minimal requirements regarding officer eligibility as defined in the Registered Student Organization Classification and Officer Eligibility Policy.

Article V. Membership

Membership in this organization is open to all enrolled students at the University of Florida. Non-enrolled students, spouses, faculty, and staff are prohibited from holding membership,

office or voting powers. All members are free to leave and disassociate without fear of retribution, retaliation, or harassment.

Article VI. Bylaws for Young Americans for Freedom

Young Americans for Freedom may elect to maintain separate bylaws document to outline the day-to-day operations of the

organization and to clarify policies and procedures otherwise not included in the previous articles. Bylaws and/or other guiding documents may not take precedence over the requirements sent forth by local, state, and federal laws, the university of Florida’s regulations, policies, and procedures, and the Student Engagement constitution requirements. Amendments and changes may be made to the bylaws and shall be consistent with the Student Engagement approved constitution on file and student engagement’s constitution requirements. Should the

organization transition leadership, all bylaws and guiding documents will be transitioned to new student organization leaders and/or advisor(s). Young Americans for Freedom agrees to provide all unaltered by laws and guiding documents and/or clarify its procedures in writing to any University of Florida student, faculty, or staff upon request.

Article VII. Student Organization Advisor

Each registered student organization must have an eligible student organization advisor. The student organization advisor must be a full-time, salaried faculty or staff member not on extended leave for 4 consecutive weeks or longer during their advisor term. The student organization advisor shall serve as a

resource person providing advisory support to officers and members and may not vote or hold office in the organization.

Section 1. The duty of the advisor is to provide expertise to the chapter. The advisor cannot make changes to the club executive board, constitution, bylaws, or any other aspect of the club. The advisor cannot vote.

Section 2. The Founding Executive Board will select the first Student Organization Advisor with a majority vote.

Section 3. The term for the Student Organization Advisor is one academic year. The Student Organization Advisor can resign

whenever they feel the need to.

Section 4. The Student Organization Advisor can be reappointed with only a majority vote from the executive board.

Section 5. To replace the Student Organization Advisor, the

active members will be able to vote to nominate a new Student Organization Advisor at a special meeting. The active members will vote, by hand, out of all the nominated Student

Organization Advisor. The advisor with the most votes in this special meeting will be the nominee. The executive board then can confirm the new advisor with a majority vote.

Section 6. Run Off Procedure: In the event of a tie, the tying Student Organization Advisor candidates will have another round of voting by hand. The winner will be tying Student Organization Advisor candidate with the most votes.

Section 7. In the event that a Student Organization Advisor candidate denies the role, the offer will be extended to the

Student Organization Advisor candidate with the next highest votes after being confirmed with a majority vote by the

executive board.

Article VIII. Officers

Registered student organizations are required to have a minimum of a President, Treasurer, and Vice President as elected officers. These officers must abide by the Registered Student Organization Classification and Officer Eligibility Policy.

The elected officers of Young Americans for Freedom shall be President, Vice-President, and Treasurer. At no time should one person hold more than one of these positions.

Section 1. The Officers of this Chapter shall be a President,

Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer, and such other Officers as may be prescribed in the Bylaws. Officers are elected by the active members.

Section 2. The President oversees managing the Club and heading all Young Americans for Freedom events. The Vice President is the assistant to the president and is responsible for ensuring non-executive officers complete their tasks. The Secretary is responsible for all media and keeping a record of Young Americans for Freedom. The Treasurer is responsible for fundraisers and managing club money.

Section 3. Initial Officers shall be elected at the organizational meeting (normally during the first full month of the fall semester), shall take office upon election, and shall serve until the annual meeting takes place and their successors have been duly elected and qualified. Thereafter, officers shall be elected at the annual meetings to serve for a period of one academic

year or until their successors are selected.

Section 4. In the event of a vacancy, the active members will

nominate replacements for the position at least a week before the meeting for the election. They will then vote, in the meeting, on the nominee that they wish to fill the vacancy. This nominee will be the active member with the most votes. The remaining

executive board will approve the replacement with a majority vote.

Article VII. Elections

Section 1. Anyone running for officer must be a currently enrolled student of the University of Florida and an active

member of Young Americans for Freedom. An active member

is one who has attended at least two meetings and has participate in one club event. A student can only be on the ballot once.

Section 2. An active member approved by the executive board by a majority vote will carry out the election. This position will be called the Election Official. The executive board will also

choose another active member to help in counting votes. This position will be called the Vice Election Official. The position will be won by the candidate with the most votes from the

executive board. An active member can refuse the role. These positions must be filled in January.

Section 3. A candidate can nominate themselves for a position or can be nominated by other active members to the Election

Official. The candidate does not have to accept the nomination if nominated by another active member. This nomination can be in person at a meeting or through any form of written communication up to a week before the election.

Section 4. The voting process will be by ballot. The balloting process shall be anonymous. Ballots, listing the candidates and the position they are running for, will be handed out and each

active member will check which candidate they are voting for. An active member can only vote once per position. If an active member votes for more than one person for an officer position, that ballot will be thrown out.

Section 5. The voting month will be March.

Section 6. Run Off Procedure: In the event of a tie, the tying candidates will have the chance to give a two-minute speech to the active members. Then, the tying candidates will leave the room and another round of voting will occur by hand. The

winner will be tying candidate with the most votes.

In the absence of clear direction on election, amendment, and /or voting procedures, Young Americans for Freedom agrees to

follow the guidance and instruction of Robert's Rules of Order for the election or amendment process.

Article IX. Finance

As a General Registered Student Organization, Young Americans for Freedom does not receive any funding or resources from other UF Departments or Colleges, rather, this organization is funded by:

Section 1. Young Americans for Freedom will raise funds through fundraisers decided by the chapter and donations

Section 2. Young Americans for Freedom will use the funds for campus activism and conferences.

Section 3. Any full time student at the University of Florida is able to help fundraise for the chapter.

Section 4. Young Americans for Freedom will apply for funding as soon as it is allowed to from Student Government and will

continue applying as long as the chapter is able to.

Article X. Dissolution of Organization

Upon dissolution, student organizations are prohibited from leaving their organizational assets to any individual or any other student organization. Rather, student organizations may

designate a specific charity that will receive such organizational assets. At the time of dissolution, after all outstanding debts are paid, Young Americans for Freedom will leave any assets and outstanding funds to …

Section 1. The chapter will not take on any debt. If debts are taken on, they will be paid before funds go to the parent

organization of Young America’s Foundation

Section 2. Any money left by the chapter in event of dissolution will go toward the parent organization of Young America’s Foundation.

Article XII. Amendments to Constitution

Student Engagement has established a process through which constitutions may be amended, reviewed, and approved. Student organizations wishing to amend their constitutions must utilize

their constitution on file listed on GatorConnect to make amendments and submit those changes to Student Engagement.

Section 1. Proposed amendments to this Constitution may be conditionally ratified by a two-thirds vote of members present at a regularly scheduled or special meeting. Anyone wishing to amend the constitution must notify the executive board and submit the full amendment before it can be brought up at a meeting.

All amended constitutions must be submitted directly to Student Engagement for review and approval.