

***Jeunes Amis du Français* of the
American Association of Teachers of French**

Constitution

- I. Name
The name of this honorary organization shall be the *Jeunes Amis du Français (JAF)* of the American Association of Teachers of French (AATF). It shall be established under the auspices of the American Association of Teachers of French and the *Société Honoraire de Français (SHF)*.
- II. Aim
The aim of this organization shall be to stimulate interest in the study of French, to promote high standards of scholarship, to create enthusiasm for and an understanding of Francophone cultures, to encourage service to school and community, and to promote international friendship.
- III. Membership: Chapters
A *Jeunes Amis du Français* chapter shall be established by a current AATF member in an accredited public or private elementary or middle school or junior high school. Chartered home schools will be added to a state-designated chapter, e.g. Home Schools of Virginia. Each *Jeunes Amis du Français* chapter is expected to establish its own constitution and bylaws based upon the national constitution.
- IV. Officers: National Council
The *Jeunes Amis du Français* shall operate under the direction of the *SHF* National Council.
- V. Affiliation
The *Jeunes Amis du Français* was established through presidential order by the American Association of Teachers of French in 2014 as an affiliate of the AATF and the *SHF*.
- VI. Amendments
The Constitution may be amended as follows: amendments may be offered by any active chapter or by the *SHF* National Council. On a majority vote of the *SHF* National Council, notice of the proposed amendments shall be published in *L'Elan* at least one issue prior to consideration, and the amendments shall be posted on the Web site. Amendments shall be adopted by a plurality of votes cast by active *JAF* chapter sponsors.

Bylaws

- I. Membership
1. Eligibility Requirements to be met by all Sponsors:
 - a. The Sponsor of the chapter must be a current member of the AATF. If sponsorship of the *JAF* chapter is maintained by more than one French teacher in the school, all sponsors must meet this requirement.
 - b. In the case of a chartered home school, each individual/teacher nominating students must be a current AATF member.
 - c. All *JAF* sponsors must maintain membership in the AATF on an annual basis.
 2. General Eligibility Requirements to be met by all students:
 - a. Selection of candidates shall be the responsibility of the Sponsor(s).
 - b. Any student of an elementary or middle school or junior high school who is enrolled in a French class and is in the 8th grade or lower is eligible for membership. Two types of *Jeunes Amis du Français* chapters will be available—Cultural or Academic, depending on the type of French classes offered in the school. Each type of chapter must be chartered.
 - c. In order for a chapter to be designated as an “Academic” chapter of the *JAF*, the school must offer at least one full academic year of French study at the middle school or junior high school level. Cultural chapters will be available in schools where the program is exploratory in nature and for elementary school programs.
 - d. The members of the “Academic” chapter must be enrolled in a full academic year of French study, maintain an excellent academic record with an A- (A minus) average in French or higher or equivalent and complete at least one service project to benefit the school and/or community in order to qualify for induction.
 - e. The members of “Cultural” chapters are expected to fulfill two service projects to benefit the school and/or community in order to qualify for induction. A list of suggested projects is

available on the AATF website. *Jeunes Amis du Français* chapters may determine their own projects in accordance with school and community needs.

- f. Membership in the *Jeunes Amis du Français*, while it orients the student toward possible future involvement in the *Société Honoraire de Français*, will not impact or imply membership in the *SHF*. It does not entitle *JAF* members to the use of any *SHF* materials, e.g. blue, white, and red honor cords, *SHF* logo, *SHF* pins, *SHF* tee-shirts; *Jeunes Amis du Français* will develop its own insignia and other materials.
 - g. *JAF* members are eligible to participate in the *JAF* Creative Writing Contest.
3. Member Status
 - a. Any further requirements for continuing membership must be included in the bylaws of the local chapter of the *Jeunes Amis du Français*.
 - b. The sponsor of the *Jeunes Amis du Français* is empowered to revoke a student's membership, based on requirements stated in the local *JAF* chapter constitution, bylaws, or school policies, for failure to maintain a high scholastic average, behavior inappropriate to an honor society, lack of participation in *Jeunes Amis du Français* activities, insufficient service hours, failure to attend the induction ceremony, etc.

II. Dues and Fees

1. Each school will submit a onetime charter fee along with their application form to the AATF. The charter fee as well as individual student membership fees will not exceed those of the *Société Honoraire de Français*.
2. The fee for student membership in the *Jeunes Amis du Français*, payable at the time of induction, shall be designated by the *SHF* National Council. This fee is payable once, and the inductee remains a member of the *Jeunes Amis du Français* as long as he/she is a student in good standing in that elementary or middle school or junior high school.

III. Awards

1. Upon selection and payment of the induction fee, candidates shall be awarded an official certificate of membership in the *Jeunes Amis du Français*. Student members may order pins and other *JAF* materials through the chapter sponsor.
2. Chapters may designate awards of their own in addition to official *JAF* certificates.

IV. Chapter Status

1. Each chapter of the *Jeunes Amis du Français* shall have its own local constitution and bylaws. Requirements for membership may exceed the national constitution and bylaws, but may not be less.
2. To maintain an active chapter of the *Jeunes Amis du Français*, the sponsor shall forward in April-June of each year to the Secretary a summary of the activities of the local chapter. These summaries shall form the basis of the national "Report to the Chapters" and shall be printed as space allows in *L'Elan*.
3. A chapter which does not submit an annual report, submit a list of inductees or order materials from *JAF* during a period of one year shall be considered inactive. To regain active status, the chapter must resubmit an application accompanied by a chapter reactivation fee.

VII. Publications

1. The *Société Honoraire de Français* shall publish a newsletter to be sent to all active Chapter Sponsors. The official name of this publication shall be *L'Elan*.
2. Any contests sponsored by the *Jeunes Amis du Français* and any awards shall be announced in *L'Elan*.