



BLUE AND GOLD

Pennsylvania FFA Happenings

Telling our Story
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What Does a State FFA Officer Do?

FROM THE OFFICERS STATION



KATIE SHARRER

This question was thrown around a lot this year: what do you do as a state officer? You can't answer this with a simple answer either. There's a whole list of job duties we agree to when we are elected.

First, we represent the FFA Association and agriculture all the time. To be a state officer you must be knowledgeable in the agriculture industry. Just in case someone stops you one day and they've never heard of the FFA, as a state officer you have the opportunity to share with them all about our organization and maybe even some interesting facts about the agriculture industry.

Second, state officers travel a lot. We travel because Pennsylvania has 150 FFA chapters and more than 12,000 members that we get to interact with throughout the year. When we travel, we are visiting chapters to facilitate workshops, speak at the banquets or even have some good old-fashioned bonding time with our members.



The state officers preparing to serve as delegates at the National FFA convention.

Third, we establish connections. We are always looking for new partners to support the FFA. We also maintain continuing relationships with partners by visiting their farms and business. Industry visits are some of our favorite things to do because most of the time it's new to us, so it's also educational.

Fourth, and most importantly, we have fun. We only have one year to serve as a state officer, so we try

our best to make it count. We take every opportunity we can; even if it means losing some sleep, it's definitely worth it. The memories we make with our teammates, our members, and other state officers will last a lifetime. They are people who have the same interests as you, so it's easy to build a relationship within minutes.

There's a whole list of jobs we do as state officers, but our biggest

priority is to help our members. We want to open as many doors for them as we can and give them op-

portunities they didn't know were out there. We facilitate statewide conferences and conventions for our members to practice and grow their skills. We emphasize leadership in our organization because we feel that it will be useful in all of our members' futures.

To anyone considering running for a state office position, I highly recommend giving it a shot. Being elected will change your life for the better. Even if you are not elected, you will go through a process that will better your public speaking skills and self-confidence. Not many people choose to do such a big opportunity, but with either outcome, you will benefit.

This year's state convention is coming up quick, and our 2016 candidates are already preparing themselves for the interviews that will take place to see if they will be one of our next state officers. To all of our candidates, good luck! Keep your head up and remember to be yourself that's the best person you can be. I know I am so grateful for my year of service, and I only hope you can have the same opportunity one day.

Editor's note: Katie Sharrer is the Pennsylvania FFA state reporter.



The 2015-16 Pennsylvania FFA officer team.



Industry visits are one of the many jobs of the state officer team.



The state officers have spent the past year traveling to FFA chapters and representing the association at state and national events.