



# BLUE AND GOLD

## Pennsylvania FFA Happenings

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[www.paffa.state.pa.us](http://www.paffa.state.pa.us)

### FFA Day at the Ballpark

PITTSBURGH — The National FFA Organization has partnered with Major League Baseball to stage four FFA Day at the Ballpark events this summer and the Pittsburgh Pirates have stepped up to the plate to help support FFA.

FFA Day with the Pittsburgh Pirates is Sunday, June 30 and is a 1:35 p.m. game at PNC Park against the Milwaukee Brewers.

Advance-sale tickets are available now for FFA members, their families and friends, advisers, FFA alumni

and supporters to purchase at a discount.

The Pirates are offering two ticket options: A Hats Off Package, which includes an \$18 grandstand seat and a voucher redeemable for a free Pirates hat on game day or a Clemente Package, which includes a \$25 outfield box seat and a redeemable voucher for a free Roberto Clemente replica jersey on game day.

For every ticket sold through this partnership between FFA and the Pirates, \$2 will benefit the Pennsylvania FFA Association.

nia FFA Association.

FFA will be recognized by the Pirates during the game through special messages. The National FFA Organization's mascot, Flyte the Owl, will be at the game to help excite the crowd and raise awareness about today's FFA. Other activities are also being planned to showcase FFA at the game.

To purchase discount tickets, visit this page that the Pirates have created especially for FFA: [www.pirates.com/FFA](http://www.pirates.com/FFA).



Renee Grove, left, and Maris Wilson, far right, visit with one of the teams at the 2012 golf outing.

### Pennsylvania FFA Foundation Hits a Hole in One

*Pa. FFA Foundation*

STEVENS, Pa. — The Pennsylvania FFA Foundation is preparing for its 21st Annual FFA Golf Outing and Charity Auction. The event will take place on July 25 at Foxchase Golf Club in Stevens, Pa. Lunch will be served and a shotgun start will kick-off the golf outing at 1 p.m. A hospitality tent will be available on the course as well as a 50/50 raffle and silent auction.

Teams of three — men, women and mixed — are welcomed. The afternoon will be limited to 144 golfers.

After golfing, there will be dinner and the live charity auction.

The outing is held annually to raise funds to benefit FFA students in Pennsylvania. The Pennsylvania FFA Foundation is dedicated to making a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education. Monies raised will directly support local FFA students by offsetting expenses for career development events and leadership development activities.

Additional information on upcoming foundation events, volunteer opportunities, and the the FFA Golf Outing and Charity Auction is available on the website, [www.paffafoundation.org](http://www.paffafoundation.org). Or, contact Stephanie Shirk at [sshirk@paffafoundation.org](mailto:sshirk@paffafoundation.org) or 717-201-6753.

### In the Blink of an Eye

FROM THE OFFICERS STATION

Everyone told me that my year as a state officer would fly by. It took me until now to realize how exactly right they were. But it's just like anything, when you're having fun and working hard, the time passes you by without a blink of an eye. I think that goes for state officers and FFA members in high school as well.

For the past few months my team and I having been scattered across the state attending chapter banquets. As I attend these banquets, it hits me how the members and I are sharing the same feelings. For them, their banquet is the end of the year, the awarding moment to their hard work and dedication. For some, they have a few more years in the FFA, but for others it is their last time in the blue and gold jacket. They will be graduating high school and moving on in life. Whether to further education, the military, or the workforce, they are taking the next step. It's really touching to watch the seniors receive special awards and cry when the banquet is over. For these members, the FFA has been a huge part of their life. They remind me of myself. The Pennsylvania FFA State Convention is rapidly approaching and has me thinking like a senior FFA member at their final banquet. I don't want to take this jacket off; I tell myself I'm simply not ready. But we also



CASEY SHAWYER

have to remember that we have to take the next step in life, take the knowledge and skill that the FFA has given us, and succeed.

As FFA members, we share some of the same qualities.

We were taught dedication, hard work, and values. If we carry these with us and do our best in life, we are carrying on the tradition of FFA inside of us. Just because we are no longer going to be donning the national blue and corn gold doesn't mean that's the end. There are many opportunities to give back to the FFA and get involved. The number one way, is to join your local FFA Alumni chapter, and if there isn't one ... create one. It's extremely important to keep the FFA spirit alive. Also, volunteering to help with local chapter fundraisers, attend their banquets, or donate a scholarship are other ways to support and stay in contact.

It's important to realize that although parts of our lives come to an end, there's always a new beginning. So as our state officer teams year ends and members of high school chapters tap the final gavel of their last FFA banquet, new beginnings are getting ready to commence. So let's get ready to take the next step together, carrying the FFA spirit inside of us, and always staying in contact with our roots.

*Editor's Note: Casey Shawyer is the Pennsylvania State FFA president.*

### FFA Members Grow, Lead and Succeed at State Convention

MARIS WILSON

*Pa. State FFA Reporter*

STATE COLLEGE, Pa. — The end of the school year is upon us, and with the smell of summer in the air that means one thing — Pennsylvania State FFA Convention is

almost here. While other students are dreaming of getting their feet wet at the beach, FFA members are studying and practicing for the State Career Development Events and the chance to represent Pennsylvania at the National FFA Convention.

The 84th edition of the Pennsylvania FFA Convention will be June 11-13 at Penn State University. Students not competing in Career Development Events will be working as delegates or showcasing their talents. Other FFA members will begin the process to see if they

can be a member of the 2013-14 Pennsylvania State FFA officer team.

Students will be receiving awards for all of their successes this year, and some of Pennsylvania FFA's partners will be recognized for their contribution to the

association.

According to the 2012-13 Pennsylvania State FFA officers there are several special surprises planned along with the usual business.

For more information, contact Michael Brammer at [c-mbrammer@pa.gov](mailto:c-mbrammer@pa.gov).