



S.O.C.S.

State Officer Candidate School



'The Pennsylvania FFA Association makes a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth, and career success through agricultural education.'

PREFACE

This SOCS manual was developed to increase the level of understanding of what the duties, responsibilities and commitments of the Pennsylvania FFA State Officers are. We hope that over time, as awareness increases, the talent level of officer candidates will also increase. Therefore the high quality state officers will be more prepared so that the FFA members are served at greater levels and the mission of the FFA is better fulfilled.

This notebook was originally prepared and published by the Pennsylvania FFA Association as a special project from the 1996-97 State Officer Team. It was continued by succeeding State Officer teams to better educate and serve future State Officer Candidates. This manual was updated and revised by the 2022-2023 State Officer Team.

2022-2023 State Officer Team

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SOCS? Aren't they just for official dress?

No silly! We're talking about State Officer Candidate School! You're already wearing your socks (we hope) and your official dress and here you are, ready to learn about being a State FFA Officer. SOCS was designed to let you find out:

- What it takes to be a State FFA Officer
- Whether or not being a state officer is for you
- What skills, qualities, attitudes and traits a state officer needs
- How to develop those needed skills, qualities, attitudes and traits

Remember, every person in this room has the ability to develop themselves into a State FFA Officer; however, not everyone will invest the necessary time and effort to do so.

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What You'll Need

This is a short, sweet list of what you will need (Both Material and Non-Material) to prepare you to be an FFA State Officer!

What You Need:

- Your Keystone Degree
- Ability to devote many hours to the FFA
 - Flexible work schedule
 - College Classes are strongly discouraged during this year: 12 credit hours per semester maximum
 - NOTE: There is a chance that you may not be elected so make your college plans as usual. It is quite easy to defer college for a year but nearly impossible to sign up to attend school at the last minute.
- Dependable Car/Transportation
 - You will travel a lot this year- Make doesn't matter, dependability does!
- Valid Driver's License
 - It is not necessary for you to have your license, but a form of identification will be needed to travel and have access to FFA Chapters/Schools.
- Willingness to work hard!
 - The State Office is fun, but it is no vacation!
- Commitment
 - FFA comes before your job, school events, and yes, even dating!
- Good Attitude
 - Your attitude is contagious!
 - Cooperation and teamwork are a must!
 - There are 6 teammates with you, and every day will be a team effort!
- Knowledge of the FFA and Agriculture
- A love for the FFA and its Members!

What You Should Prepare:

- Study
 - Harder in the areas where you are weak - It will help you prepare for challenges you face.
 - The habits and attitudes of successful people you meet.
 - FFA history - National, State, and Local levels (You cannot understand what FFA is about unless you know where it came from)
 - The many areas of Agriculture - It is always changing!
- Participate
 - Activities outside of FFA help to make you a knowledgeable, well rounded, individual.
 - Any and all FFA activities - From CDE's to SAE's, Conferences to Banquets, and everything in between.
- Save
 - You will have little time to work, so make sure you have some savings to fall back on. Expenses are reimbursed, but not all, and always expect unexpected expenses.
- Be Yourself!
 - Know who you are and what you're good at. Don't worry about the rest! It's not about being good at everything, it's about using your talents to make a positive impact!
- **"Don't prepare to run for a state office - Prepare to *BE* a state officer."**
 - D. Joe Caffee, 1995-96 National FFA Vice President

Remember



Establishing Connections

As you meet new people from across the FFA organization, talk to members around you, and prepare to run for a state office position, you may want to keep contact information on those around you!

Name:	Business/ FFA Chapter:	Phone/Email:	Social Medias:	Notes: (where you met, what your conversation was, when you should reach out to this individual)

Keeping business cards, remembering names, contacting industry representatives, and being able to greet someone (While knowing who they are) is a wonderful and useful tool of a state officer and any good samaritan!

Top 10-Preparation list!

1. Attitude

Every officer team has different individuals with different skills and different challenges. SOCS can only give you a starting point on what to expect and how to function – the reality is, it is now up to you and the only thing which draws the line between success and failure is your attitude.

Are you committed to the FFA and its members?

- Will you be able to be a state officer in and out of the jacket?
- Will you stick with the job for all 365 days, not just when it is easy and fun?
- What are you committed to?
- Will you help to develop the potential of others?
- Are you prepared to help make a positive difference in the lives of students?

If you are willing to control your own attitude and not simply let it be controlled by the circumstances, you will have a great year as a state officer. The circumstances are not always ideal. Although, if you are willing to put aside ideas of power, prestige and press and are willing to put first the development of others, and make a positive difference, it will be rewarding and successful.

2. Priorities

As time approaches to run for state office, make every attempt to place yourself in a position where you can make the FFA your first priority. State office must be your first priority over post-secondary education, jobs, chapter involvement, dating, hanging with friends, and family business responsibilities. Now, do not panic! Being a state officer doesn't mean you can't have a job, spend time with your family and friends or go back to your chapter for special events, but it does mean that when schedule conflicts arise, the FFA is priority number one!

3. Keystone State Degree & Requirements



There are a few requirements that are set in stone and will automatically disqualify you from running for a state office. Not having your state degree is one of them. Plan ahead so that you can be sure that your SAE qualifies you for your

Keystone State Degree. In addition, you must also be a high school graduate, and have some form of transportation.

4. Experience

You will find the only things you really regret in life are the opportunities you don't take. To really understand the FFA and agriculture, try to experience as much of it first-hand as you can. Such time will be well spent and will assist in developing the skills and knowledge necessary. Nothing is worse than a missed opportunity.

5. Knowledge

People expect state officers to know just about everything because they have business cards, jackets and titles. Be familiar with the history of the FFA, the agricultural industry, names, faces, rules, regulations, FFA missions, FFA policies and new technology. Be prepared to talk about these 24/7 whether you are talking to the public while pumping gas, buying workshop supplies, or at an official event, you must be knowledgeable.

6. College/Postsecondary Education

There is no guarantee that you will be elected as a state officer, so please don't make the mistake of NOT enrolling in school next year. Nearly all colleges and other post-secondary schools are highly accommodating and with a simple letter that will allow you to defer a year without any problems, if elected to State Office.



7. Skills

There are numerous skills and talents which you can work to develop that will make you a far more effective state officer and will be very useful in other areas of life as well: patience, communication, flexibility, etiquette, professional, etc. However, no one can be the best at everything, so be realistic as you set your goals, and concentrate on the skills that will benefit yourself and those around you the most.



8. Separation

As a state officer, you must be willing to put the good of the Pennsylvania FFA Association above what you would prefer for your chapter, county or area – you must separate yourself from your chapter. Now, your chapter shouldn't be forgotten all together, but your focus should be moved to the bigger picture. It is not an option to mingle with ONLY your old chapter at conferences. Activities must be planned with the good of all members in mind. When the state officer team votes at board meetings it must be focused on the state, not only your chapter. When a chapter activity that you would like to attend conflicts with the state officer needs, guess which has to fall to second priority...you get the idea.

9. Helpful Belongings

There are many items which could be very helpful if you are elected. However, they are in no way required to be elected. The following may be helpful to have if elected: MAC card, debit card or credit card, wardrobe, dependable car and license, a computer, access to email/internet and a cell phone.

10. Savings

State officers are reimbursed for things they use on the job, but it is helpful to have something to start with. Although not necessary, added savings will help alleviate the cost of personal expenses, holidays, entertainment, clothing, etc.



Top 10 - Duties Of a FFA State Officer

1. To Make a Positive Difference...

Above all, the main responsibility of a state officer is, in everything and at all times, in and out of the jacket, to be available at all times to “make a positive difference in the lives of students.” Their year is not to be focused on personal gain (although it will come), but focused on recognizing and developing the potential of students by introducing them to the opportunities in the FFA and making those FFA opportunities and experiences the best they can possibly be. Remember, state officers exist to serve the members!

2. Chapter Visits

One of the most effective endeavors a state officer can be a part of is to meet the members “on their own turf”, in their own classrooms. Chapter visits give the members a chance to meet the state officers in a more personal setting and present leadership workshops.

3. Chapter Banquets and Special Events

Throughout the year many chapters request state officers to take part in their special events. From banquets to pig roasts to Ag Olympics, be prepared to go anywhere, participate and HAVE FUN!!

4. State Conferences & Events

Mid-Winter Convention, SLLC, ACES, FLC, SOCS, and Summer Convention don't just suddenly happen. Brainstorming begins in June when officers are elected and planning goes on all year.

5. Board Meetings

The group of individuals which makes the final decisions about what happens in the PA FFA is the board of directors, of which state officers make up half.

6. National Convention

State FFA Officers make up the voting delegate body and active committees at the National FFA Convention. They discuss and vote on issues which are sent to the National Board for approval and then implemented by the National FFA Staff.

7. Strong Public Relations

Besides promoting FFA through your daily activities with chapters, there are special events with other organizations which you will attend. These may include trade shows, agricultural and/or business meetings, and much more.

8. Keeping Strong Partners

The Pennsylvania FFA Foundation does a great job at raising the funds but sometimes they can use a few extra hands at different events, so it's important for State Officers to keep strong relationships with our partners.

9. Team Building

Each officer will bring different but important talents to the team. The challenge is identifying and using everyone's talents, regardless of any personal flaws. It is important to have an open mind to the differences between you and your teammates. Those uniqueness can help you throughout your year. Learn to utilize your teammates skills and your own to achieve the most that your team can. No team will ever be "perfect" together, but you can certainly encourage it to be the best it can be.

10. Develop Personal Skills

State officers help members develop their potential, but a state officer must continue to develop his or her potential even after they are elected. Always be open to what people tell you, and do not be offended by their words. They may be trying to help you improve. No one is perfect! Also, take opportunities that make you face your fears. Your teammates are there to help you and support you through your fears and building your personal character.

RESPONSIBILITIES

In addition to the numerous other responsibilities which state officers encounter along the way, there is a huge amount of behind the scenes work which must take place daily to make all of the above occur smoothly and effectively. From the time state officers are elected in June, the team immediately begins brainstorming about themes, missions, conferences, etc. It is not unusual and in fact is very needed, to begin planning the state convention at which you will retire within a few weeks after you are elected.

As a state officer, you must be willing to put in far more work behind the scenes than in the spotlight. *For every moment in the spotlight, a hundred more must be spent:*

- Sending Emails
- Preparing Workshops
- Writing speeches, welcomes and reflections
- Making phone calls
- Typing letters and agendas
- Putting together notebooks
- Practice, practice, PRACTICE!

All of the above, and much more, must be done behind the scenes in order to make those few moments up front of the crowd possible. But don't worry, the preparation is often as much, or even more fun, than the actual event. From inside jokes, to telling stories and laughing until you cry, the preparation will be as much fun as your attitude is willing to let it be!

A year as a state FFA officer is definitely not a boring one. The responsibilities fall equally on ALL state officers. Don't assume that you can run for an office that comes with fewer responsibilities and simply slide by. All state officers spend nearly all their time fulfilling the same responsibilities as every other officer. The president must be just as willing to sweep the floor as the sentinel, and the vice president just as willing to type letters as the secretary. A successful state officer team does NOT occur because of a few great individuals, but DOES occur because of seven dedicated FFA members who are devoted to making a positive difference, and doing so by a team effort. There is no such thing as an "easy" state office. Thankfully, though, there is also no such thing as a boring, lonely or dull state office either.

Prepare to be PROFESSIONAL! You are a state officer and represent the FFA and the Agriculture Industry both in and out of the jacket. You will be well recognized. People will be watching you all the time. You must be a role model with your actions 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and during ALL of your 365 days as a state officer.

Qualities of a Successful FFA State Officer

Being a State FFA Officer is a very big and demanding job. Because of this, we have compiled a list of some very important qualities a successful state officer needs to have and use.

Patience – A good amount of a state officer's job is ceremonial, in other words, we attend many events to remind sponsors, community members, other attendees of what the FFA is (an organization to help students develop their potential for premier leadership, personal growth, and career success!) and to make a good impression. Often this means there are many times where you "hurry up and then wait," which requires patience with a SMILE.

Punctuality – Few things make a person look like they don't care, like being late – even if you really were caught in traffic. If in doubt, do NOT hit that snooze button; five extra minutes of sleep is not worth the stress and hassle of being late. When one person on the team is late it makes the entire team look bad. "To be early is to be on time, to be on time is to be late, and to be late is unacceptable."

Flexibility – When we say flexible, we mean everything! Often times plans get modified at the last minute: go with the flow. At times a state officer must sacrifice little things he or she is used to having. This includes and is not limited to eating food you may not care for, finding out you are giving a speech five minutes before you have to give it, not getting as much sleep as you're used to, changing jobs/assignments, giving up habits like chewing gum, etc.

Perseverance – Being a state officer is not all fun and games; there will be days when you're mad at a teammate, tired, feel sick, stressed, bored, hungry, or maybe, just maybe your feet hurt (imagine that!). We feel your pain, but it's your job to smile so that nobody knows what is wrong (except for your teammates and Mr. Brammer, but talk at appropriate times in a safe space). Remember a state officer represents all 13,000 PA FFA members, 24 hours a day, for one year.

Professionalism – This is the polish on top of everything! Professionalism includes looking good (from shiny shoes and wrinkle-free official dress to making sure your hair doesn't look like you just rolled out of bed) AND taking the role! Some important aspects to remember – NO swearing, NO questionable language, NO talking about teammates or members and NO questionable conversations from the time you leave your front door until you return again because you never know who is listening.

Upbeat – State officers have tremendous influence not only on members but also on sponsors, teachers, administrators, and any other people they interact with, so being upbeat and pleasant is a must.

Organization – You don't have to be the most organized human on the planet, but having some type of organization will make your life so much easier. You don't want to miss an event due to not being organized.

Dedication – "If a job is worth doing, it's worth doing right." Being dedicated takes hard work and effort and it's not always easy, but Coty Back, the 2006-07 National FFA Eastern Region Vice President suggested that whenever we don't feel like living up to the office we've been elected, to remember the members who weren't elected and the over 14,000 members we serve and think of how they'd feel if they knew we were slacking off.

Public Speaking Skills – Not every state officer was a first place winner in a public speaking CDE: that's why we go through training. Just be aware that state officers are often asked to speak (and many times at the last minute) at various events throughout the year.

Creative Thinking – From coming up with an extra and relevant workshop activity to fill time to planning for ACES, some creative thinking is needed to make what you're doing fun and interesting for all those who are involved.

Servant Attitude – State officers exist to serve the members. Never forget that! Always be willing to lend an extra hand, stay a little longer, have a smile, etc. and maintain a humble attitude the whole time. Your attitude speaks louder than anything you say.

Sacrifice – It is very important throughout the year that you will have to sacrifice your own activities for the FFA. You may not be able to take part in other clubs, organizations, or other events. Many times you will have to sacrifice your own time due to your commitment to the FFA.

Ag Knowledge – We all know that not every FFA member is from an agricultural or farming background. However, State FFA Officers represent an agricultural organization and it is their responsibility to know what is going on in agriculture. We suggest getting your hands on some newspapers (such as the Lancaster Farming, Farm Shine, etc...)

Not every person possesses each and every one of these qualities, and that is okay. What's really important is that each team member is willing to identify their strengths and weaknesses and then as a team agree to use those talents and develop those weaknesses into strengths!

A Month in a State Officer's Shoes

SUN 25	MON 26	TUE 27	WED 28	THU 29	FRI 30	SAT Oct 1
Grace SpeakAg Pioneer Tr	Callie/Zaleigh/Jeremy/Jam ● 12:30pm LEAVE PDA at 11	Fort Cherry Visit Jeremy/Za Trinity Visit James/Callie Washington County Leaders	Grace - HJM Fall CDE conte McGuffey Visit (Zaleigh/Cal	Avelle Visit (Callie/James) Big Valley Visit - Grace Waynesburg Visit (Zaleigh/.	Ben to Grand Canyon (5-10) Montoursville visit-Ben, and West Greene Visit (Zaleigh/	EXPENSE REPORTS DUE TO
2	3 Fall Leadership - Altoona ARRIVE BY 1pm at the Conv 2 more	4 Stay at Home 2 Suites - TWO ROOMS	5 Grace - Speech for GRANGE 2 more	6 *State College FFA Visit - Gr 3 more	7	8 NOC Letters due
9	10 Stay at Home2 Suites by Hilton Mechanicsburg - Confirmation #54516108 Zaleigh/Grace Stay at Hampton Inn Reading/Wyomissing for BERKS COUNTY VISITS - Meet at Home 2 to go to this hotel? Columbus Day	11 3 more	12 4 more	13 4 more	14 5 more	15
16 Home 2 Suites one room for the guys. Check out Tuesday. Zaleigh and Callie stay at Wyndham Garden Boalsburg - Check out the 18th State Grange Convention Of	17 2 more	18 4 more	19 Penns Manor - Jeremy/Jam	20 NATIONAL CONVENTION Travel and stay in Pidgeon Forge TN	21 ● 7pm Comedy Barn Show	22 ● 6pm Dolly Pardon Stamp
23 NATIONAL CONVENTION Travel and stay in Pidgeon f	24	25	26 ● 10am Ben extemp J.W Ma	27	28	29 Stay in Zanesville OH
30 NATIONAL CONVENTION	31	Nov 1 EXPENSE REPORTS DUE TO	2	3	4 ✓ Manheim Central Visit -	5 ACES Draft Agenda due ACES T-Shirt design due.

State Officer Selection Process

Nominating Committee members will be asked to report at 9:30 a.m. on the first day of FFA Activities Week for a training session. The training session will be conducted by the adults and state officers, who will be working with the nominating committee as well as the Executive Secretary. Lunch will be served during the training. Committee members' chapters that cannot arrive by 9:30am should provide separate transportation for that member.

All candidates will be interviewed up through round III during the two days. On the first day of interviews, interviews shall start at 11:30am. Interviews may also take place after the first session in the evening, completing both rounds one and two on the first day, if possible. The third round and selective interviews will take place on the following day with the committee no longer having to interview all candidates.

The selection committee will consist of the following:

- Eight members (selected by a committee as assigned by the State Officer team and the Executive Secretary)
 - Including two members from each region (One of those members will then be chosen as the chairperson)
- Two Business and Industry Reps. from alternating regions when possible.
- One Board member as appointed by the FFA Adult Board President
- One Past State Officer (minimum – two years out of office).
 - These Four adults should represent all four regions equally. (No vote)
- The Pennsylvania FFA Executive Secretary (No vote)
- The Pennsylvania FFA State Vice-President (No voice or vote. Serves as the facilitator).

The Interview Rounds to be conducted are as follows:

1.a. *Personal Interview* - Each officer candidate should come with a prepared 3-5 minute speech introducing themselves and their achievements to the committee. The information should relate past experiences to the State Officer position. There will be no questions asked after your presentation.

(Time limit for this round is 5 minutes)

(If there are 25 or more candidates, this round will be held virtually)

1.b. *Round Robin* - After eight candidates have presented their personal introductory speech, all eight will return to the interview room for a one on one interview with each student member.

(Time limit for this round is 5 minutes with each Nominating Committee Member)

(If there are 25 or more candidates, this round will be held virtually)

2. *Extemporaneous* - This round will consist of a five-minute preparation time for a maximum of five minutes to speak on a topic assigned by the nominating committee. Candidate A will begin preparation on a topic. After five minutes, Candidate A will begin to present their speech while Candidate B begins their five-minute preparation time. This will continue until all candidates have spoken to the nominating committee. Example topics can be found at the end of this book. There will be no questions asked after your presentation.

(The time limit for this round is 5 minutes)

3. *Group Round* - This round will consist of a group dynamics activity designed to evaluate the individuals and how well they work together. The committee will select their own activity for each group to present. There are usually 3-4 members per group. Example group activities can be found at the end of this book. There will be no questions asked after your presentation.

(The time limit for this activity is 10 minutes - 5 to plan and 5 to present)

(All rounds after round three are optional. The nominating committee may ask for call backs with some candidates. They will either conduct any of the following if needed or they will conduct their own form of an interview. For more information on the nominating committee please see the next page.)

4. *Optional Round* - This round will be used to break any ties created during the interview process.

(There is no time limit for this round.)

Other items to be reviewed:

Test - The test will consist of multiple choice, short answer, a writing piece and acronym questions. Questions for this test were taken from the SOCS Manual, FFA Manual, and related web sites. Names of individuals are very important and will most likely be seen on the test.

Other:

Lunch With 'The Nominating Committee On Wednesday the candidates will have lunch with the entire nominating committee, if time permits. This is the time for the nominating committee to socialize with each of the candidates.

The Nominating Committee

What happens when candidates are not being interviewed?

During interviews candidates are held in one room, interacting with each other, and socializing. Once a candidate has completed an interview they will go to another room with only those who have completed that round. During sessions, candidates are asked to sit in the front row (note: the nominating committee will be seated directly behind the candidates). When candidates are not in interview rounds or sessions, they are free to mingle with members. During meals be sure to mingle and relax (note: the nominating committee is encouraged to sit with each of the candidates during meals). Candidates are to be following all rules and regulations as all other FFA members, or they will be disqualified. For example if they miss curfew they could be disqualified.

What is the Nominating Committee doing?

They arrive before the candidates to be trained and review the applications, which are also posted on a private website prior to the convention. Once interviews start they sit, listen, and take notes. They do not discuss any candidates until the first three rounds have been completed. During the round robin they will sit one on one and ask appropriate questions. Sample questions that may be asked are found at the end of this book. After the round robin and all introductions the committee will select a topic for the extemporaneous round as well as select the topic for the group round (Examples of past selections can be found at the end of this book). Keep in mind they have not started to discuss any candidates yet. Once again they will sit, listen, and take notes. During the group round they may get up and move around in order to listen to the group's plan and work together. Once all three rounds are completed they will then review what they have heard, seen and evaluated throughout the rounds. Then they will discuss. The committee selects the team of seven officers first. Then they are assigned officer titles. Once all is completed they have selected a state officer team to represent the Pennsylvania FFA in the upcoming year. During sessions the committee sits in the second row directly behind the candidates. During meals they are encouraged to sit with the candidates too.

STATE OFFICER CANDIDATES THAT ARE ELECTED

ON THURSDAY, JUNE 15, 2021

The following is a list of items that you will be responsible for immediately after you are elected to State Office:

1. The newly elected President will say a few remarks on behalf of the new team
2. The newly elected President, Secretary, and Chaplain will perform closing ceremonies.
3. Pictures will take place immediately following closing ceremonies **(REPORT BACK STAGE IMMEDIATELY. DO NOT LEAVE THE STAGE AREA FOR ANY REASON)**The New State Officer reception will take place immediately after pictures. We will go to the reception, as a group. Immediately following the reception, there will be a mandatory team meeting for you to get handouts, medical forms, schedules, etc., for you and your parents.
4. Measurements of jackets will take place before you leave campus.
5. You will not be done until around 1:30pm on June 15th.
6. You will report for training in June – More details to follow.
7. You must bring “Me In A Box” - a small “box” of three or four items that describe you and who you are. We will be sharing these with each other during that week. Recommended that you bring three or four items ONLY.
8. Sometime during the week, we will go shopping for Official and casual dress.
9. You must learn your part for opening and closing ceremonies – we will rehearse while at training. COME PREPARED!!

Never forget to reflect on what has happened for you to receive your position, and never forget the candidates that ran with you!

FFA FACTS - Questions

1. Name the FFA colors
2. The Greenhand pin is made of what material?
3. What symbol does the chapter president have at his/her station?
4. The advisor has what symbol at his/her station?
5. The vice-president has what symbol at his/her station?
6. What symbol does the chapter secretary have at his/her station?
7. What symbol does the chapter treasurer have at his/her station?
8. The FFA creed must be learned to receive what degree?
9. What year was the Future Farmers of America founded?
10. What symbol does the chapter reporter have at his/her station?
11. What symbol does the chapter sentinel have at his/her station?
12. In what city is the Pennsylvania Mid-Winter Convention held each year?
13. Name the five FFA degrees an FFA member can earn?
14. The salute to the flag is used during what part of an FFA meeting?
15. How many times does the chair tap the gavel when he/she wants the group to stand?
16. How many medals may a member properly wear on his/her jacket?
17. What officer, elected by the Pennsylvania FFA Association, is not provided for in the National FFA Constitution?
18. What part of the FFA emblem represents the national scope?
19. On the emblem, what does the cross section of the ear of corn represent?
20. What is the name of the National FFA Magazine?
21. In what city and state was the National FFA Convention held from 1928-1999?
22. In what city and state is the National FFA Convention going to be held this year?
23. Recite the FFA motto
24. Recite the first line of the creed
25. Name the first Future Farmer of America's President and the state he was from
26. Name the three things that appear on the back of most every FFA jacket
27. Name the first two words of every paragraph of the FFA creed
28. Name the medals which may be properly worn of the FFA jacket
29. Who wrote the FFA creed?
30. Name the three types of membership in the FFA
31. Who was the only FFA member to become president of the Nation?
32. Who can be an active FFA member?
33. Name the two birds that appear on the FFA jacket
34. Who is known as the "Father of the FFA?"
35. Explain the importance of the Smith- Hughes Act
36. What year were girls admitted into the FFA?
37. What year was the creed adopted?
38. What year was the Pennsylvania FFA Association chartered?
39. What is the instrument for maintaining order during a chapter meeting?
40. What was the name of the organization for black agricultural students prior to 1965?
41. Name the six parts of the FFA emblem
42. In Pennsylvania, which two public speaking events are designed for Greenhands?
43. What does the acronym SAE stand for?
44. What does the acronym SLLC stand for?
45. What does the acronym WLC stand for?
46. What does the acronym ACES stand for?
47. What does the acronym SOCS stand for?
48. What does the acronym CDE stand for?

Answers

1. National Blue and Corn Gold
2. Bronze
3. The rising sun, block and gavel
4. The owl
5. The plow
6. The ear of corn
7. The emblem of Washington
8. Greenhand
9. 1928
10. The United States of America Flag
11. The Handclasp
12. Harrisburg
13. Discovery, Greenhand, Chapter, State (Keystone), American
14. Closing Ceremonies
15. Three
16. Three
17. Chaplain
18. The American Eagle
19. Unity within the Nation
20. FFA New Horizons
21. Kansas City, Missouri
22. Indianapolis, IN
23. Learning to Do, Doing to Learn, Earning to Live, Living to Serve
24. "I believe in the future of Agriculture"
25. Leslie Applegate, New Jersey
26. State, Chapter, and Emblem
27. "I believe"
28. Highest degree, current office, and highest award
29. E. M. Tiffany
30. Active, Honorary, Alumni,
31. Jimmy Carter
32. Anyone enrolled in an agriculture education class
33. Owl, Eagle
34. Henry Groseclose
35. Started Vo-Ag programs in high school
36. 1969
37. 1930
38. 1929
39. Gavel
40. New Farmer of America
41. Cross section of corn, rising sun, plow, owl, eagle, and words Agriculture Education
42. Creed and Junior Prepared Public Speaking
43. Supervised Agriculture Experience
44. State Legislative Leadership Conference
45. Washington Leadership Conference
46. Agricultural Cooperation Establishes Success
47. State Officer Candidate School
48. Career Development Event

Questions

49. What does the acronym PAAE stand for?
50. What does the acronym NAAE stand for?
51. Which officer is called after the reporter in opening ceremonies?
52. After what part of the Pledge of Allegiance do you not pause?
53. What is the proper procedure for introducing a motion?
54. Who is the National FFA executive secretary?
55. What is the National FFA Mission Statement?
56. Explain the significance of Public Law 740.
57. Where was the National FFA Center first located?
58. Where is the National FFA Center presently located?
59. Who is the current President of the Pennsylvania FFA Foundation?
60. When was the first National FFA Convention held?
61. How long after high school may a member remain active as an FFA member?
62. What year did the Future Farmers of America become the National FFA Organization?
63. Who is the current Secretary of Agriculture in Pennsylvania?
64. How many FFA chapters are there in Pennsylvania?
65. Where is the Pennsylvania FFA office located?
66. Who is the Pennsylvania FFA Executive Secretary?
67. One state has the Chaplain's position. Name that state?
68. Name the largest public and private FFA chapters in the state
69. Who is the Pennsylvania representative for the National FFA Alumni?
70. What is the proper way to start an official FFA function?
71. What year was the Smith-Hughes Act enacted?
72. Who created the FFA jacket and what was the name of the first chapter to wear it?
73. Name of the National FFA advisor?
74. What state FFA organization served as the model for the Future Farmers of America?
75. What symbol does the Chaplain have at his/her station?
76. To receive the chapter degree, how much money must you earn from your project?
77. What state received the first FFA charter?
78. How much money must you earn from your projects to receive your state degree?
79. How much money must you earn from your projects to qualify for the American Degree?
80. What is the speaking requirement for the chapter degree?
81. What is the speaking requirement for the state degree?
82. How is the use of the FFA emblem protected?
83. What degree must you hold to become a National FFA officer?
84. What is the highest degree the local chapter can confer upon a member?
85. How often are state officers elected?
86. What does the rising sun represent on the FFA emblem?
87. According to the state constitution, what percentage of FFA members in Pennsylvania are eligible for the state degree each year?
88. What part of the FFA emblem represents labor and tillage of the soil?
89. Where and when is the Pennsylvania FFA Convention held annually?
90. What metal is the chapter degree made of?
91. During what month is National FFA week held?
92. What national holiday is always during National FFA week?
93. Can you name the six purposes of the FFA?
94. Who originally owned the land where the first FFA Center stood?
95. What is the FFA Foundation?
96. How many FFA regions are there in Pennsylvania?
97. Is the FFA intra or extra curricular?

Answers

49. Pennsylvania Association of Agricultural Educators
50. National Association of Agricultural Educators
51. Treasurer
52. "One Nation"
53. Be recognized by the chair and then begin motion with I move
54. Cheryl Zimmerman
55. FFA makes a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth, and career success through agricultural education.
56. Charter to start agriculture education
57. Alexandria, Virginia
58. Indianapolis, Indiana
59. Mr. Caleb Wright
60. 1928
61. Fourth National convention after high school graduation
62. 1988
63. Russell C. Redding
64. 153
65. Harrisburg, in the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture building
65. Mr. Mike Brammer
66. Pennsylvania
67. Public: Walter Biddle Saul, Private: Lancaster Mennonite High School
68. No one
69. Opening Ceremonies
70. 1917
72. Agriculture Instructor J.H.Lintner, Fredericktown chapter of Ohio
73. Dr. James R. Woodard
74. Virginia
75. The Keystone
76. \$50.00
77. Virginia
78. \$1000
79. \$10,000
80. Lead a fifteen minute discussion
81. Give a five minute speech
82. Registered trademark in the US Patent Office
83. American Degree
84. Chapter Degree
85. Once a year
86. Progress and confidence in the future
87. There are no limits upon the number of keystones that can be conferred
88. The plow
89. Pennsylvania State University in June
90. Silver
91. February
92. George Washington's Birthday
93. Leadership, Scholarship, cooperation, thrift, citizenship, self-confidence, ag occupation, home improvement, improvement of agriculture, character, patriotism
94. George Washington
95. An organization that sponsors FFA programs, awards, and the FFA.
96. Four
97. Intra

Questions

98. Name the FFA regions in Pennsylvania
99. What metal is the state degree made out of?
100. What National FFA region is the commonwealth of Pennsylvania in?
101. Name the FFA regions in the Nation
102. How many American degree applications can a state submit?
103. How many official delegates can a state have at the National Convention?
104. Who are the FFA jackets ordered from?
105. Name the three requirements for the Greenhand Degree
106. Explain why there are 52 state associations
107. What is the FFA Program of Work?
108. Who is the National FFA President?
109. Who is the National FFA Eastern Region National FFA Vice-president?
110. Who is the National FFA Central Region National FFA Vice-president?
111. Who is the National FFA Southern Region National FFA Vice-president?
112. Who is the National FFA Western Region National FFA Vice-president?
113. Who is the National FFA Secretary?
114. Who is the State FFA President?
115. Who is the State FFA Vice-president?
116. Who is the State FFA Secretary?
117. Who is the State FFA Treasurer?
118. Who is the State FFA Reporter?
119. Who is the State FFA Chaplain?
120. What is an FFA proficiency award?
121. What is parliamentary procedure?
122. How many National FFA Officers are there?
123. What parliamentary procedure is used to change a motion?
124. How many state officer positions are to be filled each year in Pennsylvania?
125. Name ten CDE/LDE's held at Pennsylvania Activities Week
126. Name the FFA offices held in the local chapter provided by the National Constitution
127. At which convention is the state degree presented?
128. What is a quorum?
129. Name three types of Public Speaking LDE's used in Pennsylvania?
130. Name three types of project books used in Pennsylvania
131. What is the primary aim of FFA?
132. When are State Officers elected in Pennsylvania?
133. Name the three qualifications required for a Pennsylvania State Officer Candidate
134. How many delegates may a chapter have at the state convention?
135. Name three functions of delegates to the summer convention?
136. At which convention is the official business of the Pennsylvania FFA Association transacted?
137. Name three companies that are major contributors of the FFA Foundation
139. Name four United States Presidents who have addressed the National Convention.
140. Name four National CDE/LDE's
138. What presidents have addressed the National FFA Convention ?
139. National recognized CDE's and LDE's
140. What are the three levels of awards in the National Chapter rating contest?
141. Name the Pennsylvania FFA Facilitator

Answers

98. Eastern, Northern, South-Central, Western
99. Gold
100. Eastern
101. Eastern, Western, Southern, Central
102. No Limit
103. Determined by a formula – BUT, each state is always allowed at least two.
104. National Supply Service – FFA Unlimited
105. Be in an ag class, have plans for a project, learn creed, recite motto, know the official colors, know FFA history, know emblem symbols, proper use of jacket
106. All fifty states, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands
107. A list of activities for the year
108. Andrew Seibel
109. Gracie Murphy
110. Karstyn Cantrell
111. MacKenna Clifton
112. Ryan Williamson
113. Jessica Herr
114. James Winklosky
115. Benjamin Torrey
116. Grace Benton
117. Callie Whiting
118. Jeremy Rose
119. Zaleigh Wade
120. An award for excellence in a given area
121. The proper way to run a meeting
122. Six
123. Amendment
124. Seven
125. List can be found on the PA FFA website
126. President, Vice-president, Secretary, Treasurer, Reporter, Sentinel, Advisor
127. Mid-Winter Convention in Harrisburg during the Pennsylvania Farm Show
128. The number of members required to run a meeting one more than half
129. Creed, conservation, extemporaneous, prepared and junior prepared
130. Wildlife, work experience, production, skills and tasks greenhouse
131. To develop leadership, citizenship, and cooperation
132. In June at the summer convention
133. Have the state degree, be a high school graduate, and a reliable source of transportation
134. One for each one hundred members
135. Elect state officers, adopt a budget, and conduct official business
136. Summer convention in June
137. Brookside Sales, New Holland, Wengers of Myerstown, AgChoice Farm Credit, & PA Farm Bureau (**& more!**)
138. Jimmy Carter, George Bush, Gerald Ford, Donald Trump
139. List can be located on National FFA Website
140. Gold, Silver, Bronze
141. Vacant

Questions

142. At which National Convention was the Creed adopted and what year?
143. What years' was the creed revised and what conventions?
144. If the back of your jacket has only a large emblem with no writing, what position do you hold?
145. Who is the State Agriculture Education and FFA Advisor?
146. Who may become an honorary member of the FFA?
147. Who governs the National FFA Organization?
148. What is the NFA?
149. Who makes the final decisions for the National FFA Organization?
150. By what means does an FFA chapter conduct its official business?
151. Which chapter officer sits to the immediate left of the President in correct meeting room arrangement?
152. What officer uses the following part in the opening ceremonies, "I shall call the roll of officers..."?
153. Who says the following part in the opening ceremonies, "To practice brotherhood, honor agricultural opportunities..."?
154. To be eligible for the Superior Chapter Award a chapter must have a minimum of how many meetings per year?
155. "The owl is the time-honored emblem of knowledge and wisdom..." is spoken by who in the opening ceremonies?
156. What is the proper function of CDE and LDE's for FFA members?
157. To receive the State FFA Degree the student must have been a FFA member for how many years?
158. Which proficiency award would a student who is working in a garden supply store apply for?
159. What proficiency award would a student who is working on a farm apply for?
160. When a student is selected as a State Proficiency award winner, he/she receives what types of awards?
161. What percent of the State Superior Award winning chapters may receive the National Chapter Award?
162. What parliamentary procedure would be used to bring an item of business up for consideration at a chapter meeting?
163. What parliamentary procedure would be used to change the wording of a motion?
164. Name three ways a motion can be changed.
165. In a properly conducted meeting, how many topics may be discussed at a time?
166. Name two motions that require a two-thirds vote.
167. To be worn properly, the FFA jacket must be
168. What is the biggest seller from the National FFA Supply Service (FFA Unlimited) Blue and Gold catalog each year?
169. What are two degrees available to members at the chapter level?
170. Which State Association has the most members?
171. What is the name of the new Commission established for Agricultural Education?
172. Judges are allowed how many minutes to ask questions at the end of each FFA public speaking contest?
173. The creed public speaking contest is open to all members: True or False?
174. How many divisions of work are there?
175. The American FFA Degree candidates must have graduated at least how many months prior to the National Convention at which it is to be received?
176. Candidates for the State Degree can meet requirements by working a minimum of how many hours?
177. What is the governing body of the Pennsylvania FFA?
178. New Mexico, Arizona, and Montana are members of which National FFA Region?
179. Mississippi, Georgia, and Louisiana are members of which National FFA Region?
180. North Dakota, Nebraska, and Kansas are members of which National FFA Region?
181. How many candidates for a National Office may a state submit each year?
182. What is the official membership year for the National FFA?
183. Each chapter decision is subject to review to be sure that it conforms to the chapter's constitution's by-laws: True or False?
184. Which chapter officer is responsible for setting up the meeting room and greeting visitors?

Answers

142. Third in 1930
143. 38th in 1965 and 63rd in 1990
144. National Office
145. Chris Davis
146. Anyone that supports FFA or Ag.
147. National Board of Trustees
148. New Farmers of America
149. A board of directors and the delegates at the National conventions
150. Parliamentary Procedure
151. The secretary
152. The vice president
153. All FFA members
154. Twelve
155. The advisor
156. To educate FFA members
157. Three
158. Ag Sales and Services
159. Placement in Ag Production
160. A plaque and a check for \$250
161. 10%
162. A main motion
163. An amendment
164. Strike out, insert, strike out and insert
165. One
166. Suspend the rules, Previous question, limit debate, rescind
167. Zipped to the top
168. The FFA jacket
169. Greenhand and Chapter
170. Texas
171. The Commission for Agriculture Education Excellence
172. Five Minutes
173. False
174. Fifteen
175. Twelve
176. 300
177. Board of Directors
178. Western
179. Southern
180. Central
181. One
182. September 1 through August 31
183. True
184. Sentinel

Questions

185. The chairperson uses how many taps of the gavel to call the meeting room to order?
186. Name the five “W’s” of any good news articles
187. Preparing the agenda for a chapter meeting is the responsibility of which officer?
188. The chapter roster is prepared and submitted by the chapter secretary and what other officer?
189. Who is the assistant Administrative Director of the Pennsylvania FFA Foundation?
190. Who is the Administrative Director of the Pennsylvania FFA Foundation?
191. Name the Secretary of Education in Pennsylvania
192. Pennsylvania FFA has what charter number?
193. Who is the USDE Secretary?
194. Who is the USDA Secretary?
195. Who is the Director of the Commission for Agriculture Education Excellence?
196. In 2019-20, how much support was provided by the Pennsylvania FFA Foundation to the PA FFA Association?
197. What is the state theme for 2022-23?
198. When is the Mid-Winter Convention held?
199. Where is the PA FFA Midwinter Convention held?

Answers

185. Two
186. Who, What, When, Where, Why
187. Secretary
188. Treasurer
189. Mrs. Andrea Isenberg
190. Mrs. Sarah Sparks
191. Dr. Khalid Mumin
192. 26th
193. Miguel Cardona
194. Tom Vilsack
195. Stephon Fitzpatrick
196. \$414,378.86
197. UNWRITTEN
198. During Farm Show – January
199. At the PA Farm Show & Expo Complex – New Holland Arena

Sample Questions - Round Robin

1. Tell us if you consider State Office more of an honor or a duty?
2. Give an example of the best advice a FRIEND has ever given you.
3. Describe a situation where you felt pressured to do something against your morals and values. Did you give in?
4. Describe a situation where you DID do something against your morals and values and were satisfied with the outcome?
5. Tell us what you consider your ONE greatest accomplishment.
6. Tell us what motivates you to achieve your goals.
7. Give an example of a FFA experience that you were not 100% focused on.
8. Describe a "busy day" for you.
9. Tell us about any coaching experience you have had. Why do you coach?
10. Tell us when you first felt reliable during your lifetime?
11. Describe what initiative action you have taken that you are most proud of.
12. In all the activities you are involved with tell us which one you would drop first. (Why are you involved in that certain activity anyway?)
13. Tell us which activity/activities you would never give up.
14. Tell us when you felt you have made the greatest sacrifice in your life.
15. Describe how you practice humility in your everyday life.
16. How do you handle criticism?
17. How have you benefited from being a FFA member up to this point in your life?
18. Describe how agricultural education is different in urban areas and rural areas
19. Describe the activities that State Officers participate in
20. What would you do if you saw a FFA member wearing his/her jacket improperly?
21. How did you begin your SAE? How have you benefited from your SAE?
22. How do you stay organized? Do you keep a planner?
23. Describe a conflict that you have had on a team. How was the conflict resolved?
24. Describe the most tedious task that you have ever had to complete
25. How do you keep yourself motivated and awake when running on little sleep?
26. Have you ever had a mentor? If so, describe the relationship you had with them?
27. Describe the best team experience you have ever had. What made it so great?
28. Describe the worst team experience you have ever had.
29. What do you do when faced with a difficult decision?
30. Describe the jobs you have held in your life so far. How have you benefited from them?
31. Describe any weaknesses you might have.
32. Describe your strengths.
33. What is your favorite CDE and why?
34. What is your favorite SAE and why?
35. How did you encourage involvement among the members/parents of your chapter?
36. Why are community activities important for FFA members?
37. How would you promote Proficiency awards? Have you ever applied?
38. How would you promote involvement in CDE's?
39. What is your biggest accomplishment and why?
40. If you could select an office to hold, which one would you pick and why?
41. What is the most important moral issue that you have ever had to deal with?
42. What does being a State Officer mean to you?
43. Is there anything more important than having fun when becoming a State Officer?
44. What unique qualities would you bring to the state officer team? How would these qualities be beneficial while working with others?

Sample Questions - Extemporaneous Round

Pennsylvania Farm Bureau Annual Meeting - Pennsylvania Farm Bureau has long been a supporter of the FFA and has an annual meeting where representatives from local Farm Bureaus across PA gather to discuss current Farm Bureau policies. You are attending the annual meeting and have been asked to give a few remarks about the relevance of FFA to the Farm Bureau AND to show our appreciation for their support to FFA chapters on a local and state level.

Stranger explanation - You are in the lobby of a hotel after coming back from an event. Before heading up to your room, a stranger notices you are in official dress and asks what the FFA is. Explain what the FFA is while assuming the person knows nothing of FFA or agriculture education.

Next Generation Conference - You have just been introduced at the Generation Next Conference to give remarks on behalf of the Pennsylvania FFA Association at a discussion panel. Describe FFA's program areas. Specifically how they are unique to the needs of your program area and how they are similar to other CTSO's (Career and Technical Student Organizations).

School Board Meeting - The Office of Agricultural Education is concerned that Eastern Randolph High School's agriculture instructor has changed many times within the last few years. Due to the various instructors, the FFA chapter has become inactive and the land labs are falling apart. The school and school board would like to close down the program completely since they do not see a need for agricultural education. As a State Officer, you have been permitted to speak at the next school board meeting. Prepare your comments for why Eastern Randolph High School should continue to have an agricultural education program and the relevance to today's youth in Pennsylvania.

Affiliate Membership - The purpose of Affiliate Membership is to fulfill FFA's vision of being an intra- curricular activity by allowing any student of Agricultural Education the opportunity to partake in FFA without having to pay dues. One concern with Affiliate Membership is inactive membership. As a state officer, how would you address inactive membership on both a local and state level?

Three circles of Agriculture Education - There are three circles that make up agricultural education: What are they? Describe why each of these circles is an essential component to a successful agricultural education program.

Careers in Agriculture - As a FFA member and agricultural education student, you are approached about giving a presentation on what careers are available in the agricultural industry and why should anyone want a career in ag?

Welcome to the Conference - You are scheduled to handle the welcoming portion of the Fall Leadership Conference. Assume you are in front of 500 members, advisors, and guests. Opening ceremonies have just concluded. Get everyone excited for the conference while also going over a few basic rules.

Congressional Visit - You are scheduled for a meeting with Pennsylvania Congressman Urban on Capitol Hill. In the meeting you discover this Congressman knows little about agriculture and agricultural education. Explain the importance of this organization and make it known that you as a State Officer are a reliable resource.

Running Efficient Meetings and Gaining Membership Interest - You are meeting with an FFA Chapters Officer team about how they can run a more efficient meeting and how they can gain members interest in FFA. What do you suggest and how would you guide them?

Helping a New Teacher/Advisor - You are at a Chapter Visit and arrive early to talk to a new advisor about the FFA and what they can do at the Chapter and State level to get the program active. What information do you tell the teacher and what advice do you give them? Who should they contact for more information?

Media Interview at Farm Show - You are a state officer at the 103rd Pennsylvania State Farm Show and are approached by a local news reporter asking you to describe what the FFA is, as well as the duties of a state officer to the viewers of the network.

Sample Questions- Group Round

1. You are a group of State Officers that have just completed a successful chapter visit. You are all planning on staying for the evening's Greenhand ceremony, which begins in one hour. Until then, the ag teacher asks you to divide up to speak to four different groups who are attending the ceremony- Greenhand recipients, the chapter officer team, members' parents (who are considering starting a local alumni), and the school's administrators. Each group is expecting to meet with a state officer, so you must decide who is going to speak with each group. Once you decide who is going to what group, verbally explain why you have divided up the way you have. Also, explain what you would do with your group for that one hour.

2. As a State Officer, you will have the opportunity to interact with a wide variety of people, from joking with students to conversing with politicians to talking to the Secretary of Agriculture. What key messages would you like to leave with each of the following groups if you only had a couple minutes with them? As a group perform the task.

- FFA Members
- Agricultural Education Instructors/FFA Advisors
- Possible FFA Foundation Sponsors
- School Administrators
- Local Politicians

3. You and two other State Officers on the team are going to Washington D.C. to meet with a few congressmen at the Capitol to educate them on the importance of Agriculture and FFA. How do you start the meeting? What do you discuss and how do you divide the speaking among the three of you?

4. You have just completed your fourth chapter visit of the week in the Western Region, and Mr. Brammer has just called you to inform you that the FFA chapters in Butler County would like to host a county conference. The members in attendance will be from both high school and middle school chapters. The three/four of you will divide up to facilitate workshops for the members that will last approximately thirty minutes. You must decide what the three/four workshops will focus on and who will conduct them. Once the workshop topics are decided, verbally explain why you have selected the topics or areas of focus that you have. In addition, give a brief explanation of what you would do within your workshop for the thirty minutes.

5. Time to plan the ACES conference. Decide among your group who will give the welcome, rules of the conference, dismiss students, give reflections, etc. Explain why you made the decisions you made.

6. What are the purposes and responsibilities of the Pennsylvania FFA Association, Foundation, and Alumni & Supporters?

- Roles and duties of each organization
- How they work with each other
- Purpose for being involved with the FFA
- How do they benefit and impact members, state officers, chapters, communities, etc.



What will happen at State Convention?

Steps to Prepare

1. Have the passion to Serve!
2. Submit State Officer Application
3. FFA Knowledge Test: Study!
4. Introduction Speech: Prepare & Rehearse!
5. Round Robin: Tell your Story!
6. Ext. Speaking: Understand your topic & Be confident!
7. Group Round: Work together to achieve Greatness!
8. Optional Round 6: Stay Calm!

Rounds and Time Limits

Round Number	Round Name	Time Limit
#1	Introduction Speech & Round Robin (If there are 25 or more candidates this round will be held virtually!)	5 minutes & (8) 5 minute rotations
#2	Extemporaneous Speaking	5 minutes to prepare & 5 minutes to present
#3	Group Round	5 minutes to prepare & 5 minutes to present
#4	Optional Round	Discretion of the Nominating Committee
(Not a round)	FFA Knowledge Test	No Limit

"What does not challenge you, does not change you." Remember that no matter what the outcome, you grew from this experience. We are proud of you!

-The Pennsylvania FFA Association-

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