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BLUE AND GOLD

Pennsylvania FFA Happenings

www.paffa.org



National Convention for All

CHEYENNE BASTIAN-BROWN
State Treasurer

National Convention is the time of year that every FFA member waits for — memories such as traveling with your FFA chapter, staying in a hotel, exploring the streets of Indianapolis, and spending time in the convention hall are irreplaceable. Unfortunately, like many things during this year, the National FFA Convention and Expo will have a different look.

Instead of having the streets of “Indy” covered in blue corduroy, the convention will instead come to your computer screen.

This year’s theme for the 93rd National FFA Convention and Expo features a virtual aspect by providing a “Convention for All” this coming Oct. 27-29.

When registered, members instantly gain access to all the exclusive events virtually, without waiting in long lines or running to get seats.

Members, teachers, alumni and supporters that are registered for the convention can experience six events including: the general sessions,

Teachers World, the FFA Blue Room, Member Experience, the Forever Blue Room, and the Expo and Shopping mall.

Not registered? Not a problem.

Everyone can view the general sessions that will be broadcast live from RFD-TV studios in Fort Worth, Texas. Two sessions will be broadcast daily, and include the national officers retiring addresses, American Degree ceremony and new officer selections.

Each broadcast is available on the Cowboy Channel, FFA.org, and FFA social media pages.

Last, there are many ways for FFA members to still participate in the National Convention. Members can complete a video submission that could be broadcast at one of the general sessions. All members must do is follow the directions at <https://ffaconvention.webflow.io/>. Missing career and leadership development events? National FFA is still hosting virtual challenges that members can participate in.

Registration for the convention is open; register today to enjoy the “Convention for All!”



Pennsylvania FFA Alumni Provides First Step in a Student’s Success

Pennsylvania FFA Alumni

“MORE” is the theme for the Pennsylvania FFA this year. Although 2020 has proved to be less of many things for our members, the FFA is committed to more: more opportunities, more experiences, more friendships, and more growth as individuals throughout the 2020-2021 school year.

Over the past 14 years, the Pennsylvania FFA Alumni Association has worked diligently to provide 4,852 Pennsylvania FFA members the first step in a student’s success in this organization, which is providing them with a National Blue and Corn Gold corduroy jacket.

As FFA alumni across the nation know, the blue and gold jacket provides a tremendous amount of pride as well as the unlimited opportunities that are made available for every student, helping them to experience additional opportunities within the National FFA Organization.

As an alumni organization, we hope to present 400 students with jackets this winter. To reach our goal, we are asking for your help. For \$60 you can sponsor a jacket for a first-year FFA member.



Pennsylvania FFA photo

Greenwood FFA members zip up their FFA jackets for the first time.

If you are interested, you may send a check, payable to Pennsylvania FFA Alumni Association, c/o Krista Pontius, 405 E. Sunbury St., Millerstown, PA 17062 or visit www.paffa.org/about-alumni to use a credit card via PayPal.

Note that this is a statewide, competitive program. If you are interested in sponsoring an individual student or chapter, we would ask that you send your sponsorship directly to the chapter.

Unfortunately, this year we will not have the opportunity to witness

the sea of blue and gold at the Mid-Winter Convention; however, as alumni, we know the tremendous amount of opportunities that lay before each of these fledgling FFA members and the excitement of becoming a part of this life-changing organization.

We are committed to providing recognition to our first-year members for taking the first step on their ladder of agricultural education accomplishment, even if it is on a virtual platform.

MORE Member Stories: Kendell Moats

ALAYNA HARRELL
State Reporter

Supervised Agriculture Experience projects are meant to help FFA members take what they learn in the ag classroom and apply it to real life. Kendall Moats of the Grassland FFA chapter at Garden Spot High School is having the opportunity to experience agriculture in a new way, through her SAE project. When COVID-19 hit, she was given the challenge of choosing a new SAE project. After a Zoom call with her ag teachers, she decided that having her own podcast would fit Moat’s personality perfectly.

“I love meeting new people and experiencing new things. Agriculture and FFA is new to me so I love learning more about it in my SAE. I also want to go to college for communications and think this is a great taste of what it holds,” said Moats.

From there on, Kendell started her very own podcast on Spotify entitled “Growing with Kendell.” The goal of the podcast is to “talk about agriculture and what it has to offer.” So far the podcast has featured three episodes, each of which dives deeper into the agricultural industry. The



Photo by Kendell Moats

Grassland FFA member Kendell Moats working on her podcast.

episodes have consisted of an SAE interview, an interview with Shanesville Fruit Farm, and a summary of her local livestock show.

Moats says that the hardest part of having an ag podcast is coming up with a topic. However, each time she makes a new podcast, the process gets progressively easier.

As she continues to post a new episode of her podcast every other week, feel free to check them out. Her newfound passion for agriculture is evident in each of her episodes.

Masked Chapter Visits

On Tuesday, Oct. 6, two Pennsylvania State FFA officers, Cody Lehman, former member of chapter Central Columbia, and Cheyenne Bastian-Brown, former member of chapter Canton, visited and presented information to the Central Columbia Agricultural Science students. Cody and Cheyenne’s workshops centered on preparing yourself as a student for short-term and long-term goals. They are presented information in regard to career awareness and career interests. The Central Columbia FFA Chapter would like to express its sincere appreciation to Cody and Cheyenne for spending the day with our chapter and program.

Pennsylvania FFA Officers Hold First Virtual Conference

MIKARA ANDERSON
State President

On Sept. 30, the Pennsylvania FFA officers guided chapter officers from across the state to “Level Up” and successfully serve their chapters over the next year during its first virtual Chapter Officer Leadership Training.

Due to COVID-19, the annual Fall Leadership Conference hosted by the Pennsylvania FFA, where typically chapter officers and first-year members from Pennsylvania chapters gather for leadership development, fellowship, and to learn more about the organization, was unfortunately canceled this year. In lieu of the cancellation, the state officer team was hard at work to bring FFA members the excitement and content that would normally be presented at the Fall Leadership Conference.

The team determined to carry out a virtual leadership conference where every chapter officer could attend an officer-specific workshop free of cost and from the comfort of their home.

Each state officer, with the addition of one past state officer, facilitated an officer-specific workshop series for each respective officer position. Participating members were sent a Zoom link prior to the conference and tuned in for an evening filled with learning, leadership and fun.

Topics covered throughout the

workshops included social media, communication, impartiality, working as a team, recruitment, time management, trustworthiness, writing skills, and so many other topics students will find useful as they embark on their journeys as chapter officers. Not only did this conference provide chapter officers a chance to gain new skills and hear ideas to bring forth at their home chapters, but it also was a way for the state officers and members to form connections with one another.

The COLT conference reached over 300 chapter officers who registered to participate, with over 70

chapters represented. The theme for the conference was “Level Up,” in which the state officer team hoped to aid officers in increasing their understanding of their position responsibilities and to set them up to best serve their members.

The state officer team sends thanks to all the chapter officers who participated in the conference, as well as the teachers who promoted the opportunity to their students. As a team, we cannot wait to hear the stories of our chapter officers in action and watch as they positively impact their members.



Pennsylvania FFA photo

State Reporter Alayna Harrell with her zoom meeting group at Chapter Officer Leadership Training.