

OHIO FFA OFFICER CANDIDATE GUIDE

2019

To: Potential Ohio FFA Officer Candidates

Re: Ohio FFA Officer Selection Process

Date: September 5, 2018

The process to become an officer for the Ohio FFA Association is a lengthy process. You began that process when you enrolled in your first Agriculture Education class. The experience you have gained through classroom instruction, your supervised agricultural experience program and FFA have all helped you develop the necessary skills to serve as a leader of the FFA.

The year as an Ohio FFA officer is a year of service. The decision to run for an office should not be made lightly or without a sincere commitment to serve. Ohio FFA officers have many duties that require extensive travel and numerous days away from home. While the Ohio FFA Association reimburses expenses incurred by the officers in performance of their duties, officers routinely incur personal expenses that cannot be reimbursed.

If you have the desire to serve the FFA members in Ohio and have the support of your family and FFA advisor(s), you should consider participating in the officer selection process. The officer selection process will examine the attitudes and abilities of each officer candidate and reveal which individuals have most completely developed their leadership skills.

The Procedures for the Election of State FFA Officers document is included in this guide. These procedures highlight the following components of the state FFA officer program: purpose, composition of the officer team, term of office, qualifications, application, interview process and elections. Familiarize yourself with the procedures, as there significant changes this year.

You are encouraged to review the information included in this candidate guide, learn as much as possible about what it truly means to be a state FFA officer, and practice for the interview process. Additionally, you are encouraged to attend the practice interview session on Saturday, March 9, 2019, at The Ohio State University.

Procedures for Election of State FFA Officers

Ohio FFA Association

Purpose

The Ohio FFA Association shall elect officers to provide leadership and guidance to the organization. State FFA office is a position of leadership. An officer's duties can be placed in three general categories: to motivate members to achieve their highest potential and get the greatest good from their involvement in FFA; to promote the organization and act as a goodwill ambassador for agriculture and career-technical education (specifically agricultural education); and to give direction to the work of the organization and perform all tasks necessary to execute the various programs of work in the state association.

Composition of the Officer Team

The elected officers of the Ohio FFA Association shall consist of president, 1st vice president, secretary, treasurer, reporter, sentinel, and 5 vice presidents at large.

Term of Office

Ohio FFA officers shall serve for a term of one year, and shall not be re-elected, nor eligible for election to another state office, with the exception of seeking nomination for state president. In the event a state convention is not held in any given year, the Ohio FFA Board of Trustees shall make provisions for the appointment of Ohio FFA officers for the next succeeding year.

Qualifications

Each candidate must be a member in good standing, hold the State FFA Degree, and be a junior, senior or first-year graduate by the closing of the state convention at which he or she is elected.

Application

Candidates must submit a written application, as well as an advisor recommendation form, by the given deadline. Advisors may not recommend more than two candidates from the same chapter. In the event a chapter has a current state officer seeking the presidency, the advisor may still recommend two additional candidates from that chapter.

Interview Process

Candidates will rotate through a multi-phased interview and be scored by a nominating committee. Interview rounds may include but are not limited to a general interview, an impromptu scenario, an extemporaneous speech, a "Why I Desire to Serve" interview, a writing exercise, and a written exam. Candidates must reach a minimum score to be considered for state office. The top ten scoring candidates (excluding presidential candidates) will be placed on the ballot as follows: two candidates for 1st vice president, two candidates for secretary, two candidates for treasurer, two candidates for reporter and two candidates for sentinel.

Elections

Candidates will be given equal opportunity to prepare and present remarks to the delegates at the Ohio FFA Convention. Following the remarks, the candidates will be voted upon. No nominations will be taken from the delegate floor. The candidate receiving a majority of the votes for each office shall be elected to the position. The candidate not receiving the majority vote will automatically become one of the 5 vice presidents at large.

Components of the 2019 Interview Process

General Interview

The General Interview consists of a 4-6 minute interview with a committee of four to six judges. The candidate may be allowed a few introductory remarks, but the majority of the interview is spent with the committee asking questions surrounding the candidate's SAE, FFA experiences, leadership activities and other pertinent Agricultural Education and FFA activities. *The General Interview is worth 100 points.*

Extemporaneous Practicum

The Extemporaneous Practicum consists of a 4-6 minute interview with a committee of four to six judges. The candidate will present an extemporaneous speech; it will be modeled from similar speaking situations Ohio FFA officers would likely encounter during their year of service. *The Extemporaneous Practicum is worth 100 points.*

Scenario Interview

The Scenario Interview consists of a 4-6 minute interview with a committee of four to six judges. The candidate will respond to an impromptu situation they might experience as an Ohio FFA officer. The candidate will not be informed in advance of the specific scenario they will face. (Examples include: 1) Conversation with a teacher that is having problems recruiting students; 2) Conversation with an administrator that doesn't allow travel to FFA Activities; 3) Conversation with a community leader in an attempt to start an FFA Alumni Chapter; 4) Conversation with a state official about Agricultural Education and the FFA; 5) Conversation with a business and industry member or FFA sponsor.) *The Scenario Interview is worth 100 points.*

Why I Want To Be An Ohio FFA Officer

This section consists of a 4-6 minute interview with a panel of four to six judges. The candidate will present the portion of their application entitled "Why I Want To Be An Ohio FFA Officer." This is scored as a presentation but not as a prepared presentation; therefore, the presentation does not need to be memorized or presented as a prepared public speech. After the candidate has made their presentation, the committee will be asked questions until time expires. *This portion of the interview is worth 100 points.*

Writing Exercise

Each candidate must bring with them to the interviews two different typed letters of thanks to an Ohio FFA sponsor of their choice. Sponsor information (name, address, sponsorship, etc.) must be secured from the Ohio FFA Foundation's website. The letters should follow proper formatting regulations, and be placed in an unsealed, stamped, properly addressed envelope. *The Writing Exercise is worth 100 points.*

Written Test

The Written Test consists of 100 multiple-choice questions and will focus on all aspects of the Agricultural Education program. Approximately 50% of the questions will be about FFA and parliamentary procedure. The other 50% of the questions will be about the agricultural education/Supervised Agricultural Experience Programs, and agricultural industry. Candidates are encouraged to review the previous tests available on the Ohio FFA Website as a study resource. *The Written Test is worth 100 points.*

Preparing for the Selection Process

How to prepare for the Ohio FFA officer selection process is an individual journey and will vary with each candidate. Some will prepare in isolation while others will engage others to help prepare. Some will have seemingly countless practice interviews while others will have very few.

The greatest key in a successful journey of preparing yourself for the Ohio FFA officer selection process is knowing the beginning and the end points. If you have an understanding of who you are (knowledge, skills, attitude and talents) and what is expected of and looked for in Ohio FFA officer candidates, then you can map your own plan for the preparation journey. This section will describe what knowledge and skill level is expected in a newly elected Ohio FFA officer, so you can begin mapping your preparation strategy.

What You Should Know

With all the roles that an Ohio FFA officer must fulfill, it is imperative that officers enter their term with a high level of understanding of agricultural education, supervised agriculture experience, FFA and the agriculture industry. Each candidate should ideally possess knowledge about the areas listed below before the selection process begins. While it is not mandatory that candidate review the following information, past practice indicates that candidates who possess a great knowledge of Agricultural Education and the FFA, do better in the interview process.

Areas of Knowledge

- Fundamentals of FFA (examples listed below)
 - Relationship between FFA and agricultural education
 - FFA mission statement and vision statement
 - State FFA leadership
 - National FFA leadership
 - History and current state of career-technical education
 - FFA programs and opportunities
 - FFA publications and other brand awareness efforts
 - Ohio FFA Foundation leadership and purpose
 - National FFA Foundation
 - National FFA Alumni
- Agricultural Education
 - Smith-Hughes Act
 - 3 Circle Model
 - History and role of the Supervised Agricultural Experience
 - Ohio Association of Agricultural Educators
 - Recruitment and retention of agricultural educators
 - Current issues facing local programs
- Agriculture Knowledge
 - Basic agriculture-related statistics (use American Farm Bureau Federation as a resource)
 - Farm Bill
 - Issues facing the American agriculture industry
 - Issues facing Ohio agriculture industry (use the Ohio Farm Bureau Federation as a resource)
 - Knowledge of the top leaders in Ohio agriculture and American agriculture

In addition to the above areas of knowledge, it is essential that each candidate spend time in self-reflection. Make sure you know yourself, your beliefs, your values, and your priorities. Know your strengths and areas for improvement. Know how you work best. Know what issues matter most to you. Be able to articulate your ideas for FFA and the agriculture industry. Be prepared to accurately represent yourself to the interview committee.

Ohio FFA Officer Commitment Form

The following form is included as part of the application and requires agreement upon applying for a state FFA office. However, it is important to be aware of this commitment form when making your decision to seek a state leadership role in the FFA. As you evaluate this commitment form, be aware that each state officer is expected to adhere to the ideals outlined below.

1. Be dedicated and committed to the total program of Agricultural Education and the FFA.
2. Be willing to commit the entire year to Ohio FFA officer activities and consider FFA officer activities to be my primary responsibility
3. Be willing and able to travel in serving the Ohio FFA Association using my personal automobile.
4. Be knowledgeable of current events in agriculture, education in agriculture and of FFA.
5. Through preparation and practice, develop myself into an effective public speaker and presenter.
6. Project a desirable image of FFA at all times.
7. Regularly, and on time, write all letters, thank-you notes, e-mails and other correspondence that are necessary and desirable.
8. Strive to improve my ability to carry on meaningful and enjoyable conversations with all individuals.
9. Accept and search out constructive criticism and evaluation of my total performance.
10. Maintain and protect my health and abstain from any and all use and/or consumption of alcohol, tobacco and illegal substances at all times during my year of service to the FFA.
11. Treat all FFA members equally by not favoring one over another.
12. Conduct myself in a manner that commands respect without any display of superiority.
13. Maintain my dignity while being personable, concerned and interested in contacts with others.
14. Avoid places or activities that in any way would raise questions as to one's moral character or conduct – be beyond reproach.
15. Use wholesome and appropriate language in all speeches and informal conversations.
16. Maintain proper dress and good grooming for all occasions.
17. Work in harmony with fellow FFA officers, and not knowingly engage in conversations detrimental to other FFA members, officers and adults.
18. Work cooperatively with other officers of the Ohio FFA Association; always maintaining a cooperative attitude.
19. Be willing to take and follow instructions as directed by those responsible for Ohio FFA officers and state and local FFA programs.