

# OHIO FFA

*Officer Candidate Guide*





To: Potential Ohio FFA Officer Candidates  
Re: Ohio FFA Officer Selection Process

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.

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.

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 participate in the virtual Ohio FFA Officer Candidate Informational Session on March 8<sup>th</sup>.

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# 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, 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 vice president, two candidates for secretary, two candidates for treasurer, two candidates for reporter and two candidates for sentinel.

### Elections

Advisors will submit the names of two delegates for each chapter. No additional nominations will be accepted. 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.

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## Important Dates for the 2025 Interview Process

### OHIO FFA ASSOCIATION

Please familiarize yourself with the timeline for the 2025 Interview Process.

#### **MARCH 28 • Application Due**

Candidates must have submitted all components of the written application, including the advisor recommendation form.

#### **APRIL 4 • “Why I Desire to Serve as an Ohio FFA Officer” Presentation**

Recorded videos must be uploaded by this deadline. After submitting their applications, candidates will receive information with additional details regarding the submission procedures.

#### **APRIL 4 • Writing Exercise Due**

Written letters must be uploaded by this deadline. After submitting their applications, candidates will receive information with additional details regarding the submission procedures.

#### **APRIL 5 • General Interview & Impromptu Scenario**

Candidates will participate in an in-person general interview and scenario interview at the Ohio FFA Center in Columbus. After all candidate applications have been submitted, the interview schedule will be shared with candidates and advisors.

#### **MAY 1 • Announcement of Candidates & Delegate Voting**

The slate of officers will be announced during the first session of the Ohio FFA Convention. Delegates will vote during the delegate business session. Please note, candidates will present a live version of their “Why I Desire to Serve as an Ohio FFA Officer” presentations to the delegates during the voting process.

#### **MAY 2 • Announcement of the 2025-2026 Ohio FFA Officer Team**

The 2025-2026 Ohio FFA Officer team will be announced during the final Ohio FFA Convention session. Those selected for office will receive additional information from Ohio FFA staff.

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# Ohio FFA Officer Commitment Form

## OHIO FFA ASSOCIATION

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.
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