

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 7th.





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 process 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, and a writing exercise. 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.



Components of the 2026 Interview Process

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General Interview

The General Interview consists of an interview with a committee of judges. The interview will take place in person at the Ohio FFA Center on April 11th, with each candidate receiving an allotted time slot to be interviewed. 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.

“Why I Desire to Serve as an Ohio FFA Officer” Presentation

Each candidate will present and record the portion of his/her application entitled “Why I Desire to Serve as an Ohio FFA Officer.” This is scored as a presentation. Candidates may elaborate on their written statement, but may not exceed 3 total minutes. Candidates will receive instructions to upload this video to be scored by a panel of judges. This video must be uploaded by April 10th. 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. This portion of the interview is worth 100 points.



Writing Exercise

Each candidate must upload one typed letter 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 at ohioffa.org/foundation/supporters/sponsors. The letter should follow proper formatting regulations. There is no need for an envelope for this year’s letter. Candidates will receive the instructions to upload the letter. The letter must be uploaded by April 10th. The Writing Exercise is worth 50 points.

Impromptu Scenario

The Impromptu Scenario consists of a 4-6 minute conversation with an individual, while a panel of judges observes. Before entering the interview room, the candidate will receive information about the person they are encountering. The scenario is designed to replicate a situation they might experience as an Ohio FFA officer. Examples include: 1) Conversation with a teacher; 2) Conversation with someone who is not familiar with FFA or agricultural education; 3) Conversation with an FFA member; 4) Conversation with a business and industry member or FFA sponsor. The individual with whom they are conversing may be talkative, standoffish, inquisitive, etc. They will, however, be consistent with all candidates. Candidates should be prepared to carry the conversation. This round will take place at the FFA Center on April 11th. The Impromptu Scenario is worth 100 points.





Important Dates for the 2026 Interview Process

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Please familiarize yourself with the timeline for the 2026 Interview Process.

APRIL 2 • Application Due

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

APRIL 10 • “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 10 • 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 11 • 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.

APRIL 30 • 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 1 • Announcement of the 2026-2027 Ohio FFA Officer Team

The 2026-2027 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.



Ohio FFA Officer Commitment Form

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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.

