



The Race Is On

Running for a Virginia
State FFA Officer

“The 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.”



Why Run for a SO?

- You gain valuable leadership experience
- You travel all over your state to make chapter visits with enthusiastic members
- You make contacts with agricultural industry leaders
- You meet other SO's from all over with the same passion for agriculture & FFA as you!

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Who's Eligible to Run?



- Graduates of High School
- Recipients of State Degrees
- Only one person from each chapter is allowed to receive an office each year, however two from the same chapter can run for a spot
- Anyone who wants to have fun, gain leadership experience, and grow personally in serving the FFA members

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How Do You Run for a SO?



- **Consider the obligations**
- Fill out the application and have it turned into the Virginia FFA by June 1st
- Plan to be in interviews the whole week of State Convention, and plan to stay after the last session to tear down and get information if you receive an office

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What Does a SO Do?

- Makes chapter visits during their term to provide workshops on numerous topics
- Goes to National FFA Conferences such as Blast Off, NLCSSO, SPC, and ILSSO
- Makes industry visits and serves as an “Ambassador of Agriculture”
- Submits articles to Virginia’s insert to *FFA New Horizons*

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Advantages of a State Office



- Leadership Experience
- Travel
- Networking
- Personal Growth
- Meet new members all over the state
- Open doors to career opportunities
- Having fun!

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Disadvantages of a State Office

- You may have to take your first year of college off to serve the Virginia FFA
- If you attend college, you have to take minimal hours to achieve school goals as well as your duties as a State Officer

Clearly, the advantages outweigh the disadvantages!

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After You Are Elected...



- The Blast Off Conference is held in July where you go through leadership training and teamwork building activities with your new officer team.
- The Golf Tournament is a yearly fundraiser for the Virginia FFA Foundation, and you are expected to attend in July.

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After You Are Elected... (cont.)



- The State President's Conference (SPC) is a conference in Washington, D.C. for the President and Secretary in late July.
- National Leadership Conference for State Officers (NLC SO) is a conference for state officers to bond more with their team, as well as meet other state officers in August.

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After You Are Elected... (cont.)



- You serve as a voting delegate at the National Convention. You sit on the floor with the other delegates and you have responsibilities during the week.
- You are in charge of planning and executing the State Convention in June. There are meetings every month for feedback on visits and planning.

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Other Responsibilities



- FFA Camp
- Helping with State & Area CDEs
- State Fair
- Big E Conference
- Ag Teachers Conference (VA AE)
- FFA Week
- Young Farmer Conventions
- Of course... Chapter and Industry Visits

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What Should I Do To Get Ready?



- Applications are due to Mr. Andy Seibel, Virginia FFA Executive Secretary by June 1st
- Prepare with *The Race Is On* Candidate Handbook
- Think what you would like to see happen with the Virginia FFA in the next year
- The interview process at the State Convention is conducted by the Nominating Committee

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Preparation- FFA History



- Who were the founders of the Future Farmers of Virginia?
- Name one National Scholarship Sponsor
- Name one State Scholarship Sponsor
- What are the FFA Colors?
- What year were females allowed in FFA?
- What year was the FFA Creed adopted?
- What year did the FFA and NFA merge?

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Preparation- FFA History (Cont.)

- Who was the first Virginia FFA State President?
- What was the first state to receive an official FFA charter?
- How many kernels are on the cross-section of corn on the emblem?
- What is the FFA salute and motto?
- What year did the FFA change its name from Future Farmers of America to National FFA Organization?
- What year was the name of the official FFA magazine changed?

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Preparation- Personal FFA



- How did you become involved in the FFA?
- Who has been your biggest inspiration as an FFA member?
- What is the hardest challenge you face as an FFA member at your high school?
- Have you ever thought about not being an FFA member?
- What is your biggest personal achievement in the FFA?

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Preparation- General Agricultural Education



- What benefits are there to being enrolled in an Ag classes?
- Currently, what are some issues facing Ag Education in Virginia?
- Is there a future for Ag Education in Virginia?
- What role do State Officers play on promoting Ag Education?

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Preparation- Personal Agricultural Education



- How can the State Officers better inform the public about Ag Ed and what it has to offer?
- Why do you think Agricultural Education belongs in the public school system?
- Aside from FFA, what was the best experience you have had in your Ag Ed classes?
- Where do you think Ag Ed is heading in the future?

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Preparation- General Agriculture



- What are some of the topics covered in the Farm Bill?
- What are Genetically Modified Organisms?
- Does cloning and genetic engineering benefit agriculture?
- What impact do the prices of crops or livestock have on the ag economy?
- What does PETA stand for?

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Preparation- Virginia Agriculture



- What are some of Virginia's top crops?
Where are they grown?
- What agriculture industries can be found where you live?
- How are you involved in Virginia's agriculture?
- What county in Virginia is the biggest Ag producer?

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Acronyms of FFA

CFFA	Collegiate FFA
Blast Off	Building Leaders And Strong Teams of Officers
CDE	Career Development Event
EDGE	Experiencing Discovery, Growth, and Excellence
ILSSO	International Leadership Seminar for State Officers
LPS	Local Program Success
MFE	Made for Excellence
NCF	New Century Farmers
NFA	New Farmers of America

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Acronyms of FFA (Cont.)



NAAE	National Association of Agricultural Educators
NASAE	National Association of Supervisors of Ag Education
NLC SO	National Leadership Conference for State Officers
PALS	Partners in Active Learning Support
SPC	State President's Conference
SAE	Supervised Agricultural Experience
WLC	Washington Leadership Conference
SLC	State Leadership Conference

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Important People To Know



Mr. Tom Vilsack	Secretary of Agriculture (USDA)
Mr. Arne Duncan	Secretary of Education (USDOE)
Dr. Larry Case	National FFA Advisor
Mr. Steve Brown	National FFA Executive Secretary
Dr. Glen Anderson	Virginia FFA State Advisor
Mr. Andy Seibel	Virginia FFA Executive Secretary

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Important People To Know (Cont.)



Edmund Magill Henry C. Groseclose Walter S. Newman Harry Sanders	Founders of the FFV & FFA (All Professors of Virginia Tech)
Gus Litner	Inventor of the FFA Jacket
E.M. Tiffany	Writer of the FFA Creed
Leslie Applegate	First National President
Henry C. Groseclose	First National Executive Secretary
C. H. Lane	First National Advisor

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FFA Places

Virginia Tech Blacksburg, Virginia	Place where the FFV began in 1926
Hotel Baltimore Kansas City, Missouri	Place where the FFA began in 1928 with 18 states in attendance
Kansas City, Missouri	Original site of the National FFA Convention (1928-1998)
Louisville, Kentucky	Past site of the National FFA Convention (1999-2005)
Indianapolis, Indiana	New site of the National FFA Convention (2006-2012)
Alexandria, Virginia	National FFA Headquarters, Past Home of the National FFA Center
Blacksburg, Virginia	Site of State Convention and Virginia's FFA Headquarters

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FFA Resources



- Official FFA Manual
- FFA Student Handbook
- Virginia FFA Prospective State Officers Handbook
<http://www.vaffa.org/stateofficers/prospectivestateofficers.html>
- National FFA Organization www.ffa.org
- *FFA New Horizons* Magazine
<http://www.ffanewhorizons.org/index.php>
- Team Ag Ed <http://www.teamaged.org/>
- American Farm Bureau www.fb.org
- Virginia Farm Bureau www.vafb.com
- Young Farmers of Virginia www.vayoungfarmers.org
- Robert's Rules of Order (Parliamentary Procedure)
www.robertsrules.com

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More Study Material...



- Please refer to The Race Is On State Officer Candidate Handbook for more information and study material to help you get ready for the interview process...



RUNNING FOR A VIRGINIA STATE
FFA OFFICE

STATE OFFICER CANDIDATE HANDBOOK
2008

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