# Colorado FFA Officer Commitment Form

Being elected to state FFA office is making a commitment to service that is unique to most student organizations. In addition to serving and representing more than 4,000 FFA members, you will represent the image and direction of the Colorado FFA Association to teachers, agriculture industry executives, government leaders, the media and the general public. You will also be a teammate to 9 other officers.

There are 8 keys to performing the position successfully. Those who commit their time, energies and passions towards learning, living and modeling these 8 keys of success will not only successfully complete their term of service, they will move towards excellence. The following is a summary of each key to being a successful state FFA officer with already established procedures that help achieve each key to success. The primary purpose of this text is to convey the intent and spirit of each key. The newly elected officer team will develop additional procedures for each of these keys to success with their teammates and supervisor during their training period. As part of declaring your candidacy for office, you are asked to commit to these keys of success and the operational procedures that accompany them.

## **BE THE BRAND**

State FFA officers are committed to upholding the FFA brand and will understand and successfully complete their roles in representing it. This includes communicating FFA's brand, vision and strategic plan to others as well as communicating key organizational messages (agricultural education, SAE, FFA, youth issues, and agriculture). This requires the officer to be in their role 24 hours a day, 7 days a week for a 365-day year. As part of the FFA brand, there will be general rules of behavior to follow including projecting a professional image, proper etiquette, positive media interaction and the promotion of diversity.

- 1. Be dedicated and committed to FFA and the total program of education in agriculture/agribusiness.
- 2. Forego all alcohol, tobacco and illegal substances at all times during my year of service to the FFA
- 3. Avoid places or activities that in any way would raise questions as to one's moral character or conduct.
- 4. Use wholesome and appropriate language in all speeches and informal conversations.
- 5. Maintain proper dress and good grooming for all occasions.
- 6. Be willing to take and follow instructions as directed by those responsible for state FFA officers.

#### **BALANCING ACT**

An officer must also include personal health, wellness and stress management as one of their keys to success. Officers not committed to this will not position themselves to fully serve the members and the Colorado FFA Association. Included in this key commitment are flexibility/adaptability, personal reflection and growth, maintaining your relationships with family and friends, keeping a realistic view of self and preparing to transition back after your year of service.

- 1. Be willing to commit the entire year to state officer activities, considering FFA officer activities to be my primary responsibility.
- 2. Maintain and protect my health.

3. Regularly, and on time, write all letters, thank-you notes, e-mails and other correspondence, which are necessary and desirable.

## STEP UP TO THE BLACKBOARD

Training and experiences in this key will help officers gain confidence in their abilities and take measured risks moving officers from average to spectacular performers. To achieve this, officers must be committed to trying new things, approaching failure as a learning experience, challenging self to grow, challenging the process with respect, building team trust and resolving conflict.

- 1. Accept and search out constructive criticism and evaluation of my total performance.
- 2. Through preparation and practice, develop myself into an effective public speaker and project a desirable image of FFA at all times.

# THIS IS IT

The training and experiences in this key center around life-and time-management. An officer should excel in these areas, so that they will be better able to give their full concentration and focus to the present. This includes:

- Logistics Management (use of computer and technology, appropriate management of travel, completing vouchers properly and submitting on time and excellent communication with teammates and state staff).
- Meeting Management (creating and following agendas, consensus building, bringing people back to task and keeping focus).
- Life Management (prioritizing, meeting deadlines and timeliness).
- Financial Management (maintaining your personal finances, understanding and following association budget).
- Focus (listening and bridging connecting conversation topics to FFA key messages/programs).
- Team (understanding roles on team, following the team code of ethics, following the team mission and following the team vision).

#### **PAY IT FORWARD**

Service is an important component to an officer's year. The training and experiences in this key will help make service more realistic to the officers, and will help them approach their year of service with a plan. This includes focusing on the future value of your current work (Executive Committee work, business & industry tour, state convention, etc.), building strategic relationships/partnerships, treating everyone with respect, teaching workshops in an engaging manner and teaching to meet ALL learner needs (learning abilities, diversity, etc.).

- 1. Strive to improve my ability to carry on meaningful and enjoyable conversations with individuals of all ages and walks of life.
- 2. Treat all FFA members equally by not favoring one over another.
- 3. Conduct myself in a manner that commands respect without any display of superiority.
- 4. Maintain my dignity while being personable, concerned and interested in contacts with others.

# LIVE ABOVE THE LINE

This key focuses on virtues and behavioral characteristics that should be associated with a state FFA officer. These include responsibility, integrity, keeping promises, speaking with good purpose (communicate in a positive, honest and direct way), dealing in a constructive way with difficult people/teammates, and seeking Win/Win solutions.

- 1. Evaluate, periodically, my personality and attitudes making every effort to improve myself.
- 2. Serve as a member of the team, always maintaining a cooperative attitude.
- 3. Work in harmony with fellow FFA officers, and not knowingly engage in conversations detrimental to other FFA members, officers and adults.

# **LEARNING FOR LIFE**

This key focuses on the importance of learning throughout the officer year in several subjects. Developmental topics will include communicating about agricultural education, the history and foundations of FFA, and the future directions of FFA and Agricultural Education. In addition, state FFA officers will learn workshop and speech design and delivery methods. Also, growing your knowledge of yourself (focus on growth) and growing your knowledge of team members will allow the officer to perform more efficiently and effectively.

- 1. Become knowledgeable of agriculture, of education in agriculture/agribusiness, and of FFA.
- 2. Keep myself up-to-date on current events.

## **FUEL THE FIRE**

This key focuses on passion: helping the officers find and share theirs with members and the team so as officers they will be able to help members find their passions. To achieve this, state FFA officers will discover and build on their personal interests and passions. The officers will use the team's passions to develop themes (Chapter Visits/State Convention) and will learn to share their passions by building individual and team relationships with teachers and agricultural business leaders and through effective delivery of speeches and greetings on behalf of the organization.

I have read, studied and understand the intent and spirit of the 8 keys to state FFA officer success. If elected to office, I will commit to learning and modeling the 8 keys of success and the team's operating policies and procedures that implement the 8 keys. I understand that failure to do so may result in limitations being set on my roles as a state FFA officer and/or the removal from office by the Colorado FFA Executive Committee.

Applicant Signature	
Parent or Guardian Signature	
Chapter Advisor Signature	