



NATIONAL FFA OFFICER HANDBOOK

2026-2027

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Introduction

Becoming a National FFA Officer is one of the most prestigious and life-changing experiences an FFA member can obtain. National officers serve all members, advisors, parents, partners, and other stakeholders by frequently delivering workshops and keynotes, representing the student voice on the National FFA Board of Directors, building relationships, and embodying the qualities of a servant leader.

Officers spend extensive amounts of time away from their homes, families, friends, and everyday lives. The job of being a national officer is strenuous, challenging, and will stretch and grow an individual in ways previously thought impossible. Before an individual decides whether the path to the national FFA office is for them, they should reflect deeply on the depth of the role and their personal purpose for running. When going through the process of preparing to be an officer, we encourage candidates to review this handbook in depth, not simply to run for office but to prepare for the role itself, to truly **be** an officer.

This handbook is designed to answer some of the questions individuals may have during candidacy for and/or service as a national officer and to provide information that is important for candidates/officers to know. ***During candidacy for and/or service as a national officer, individuals are not deemed to be employees of the National FFA, and this handbook does not represent a contract of employment, nor is it an offer, statement, or confirmation of any guaranteed terms or conditions of your candidacy for and/or service as a national officer. External conditions, laws, and organizational needs change, and the policies and benefits addressed in this handbook may be discontinued or changed at any time at National FFA Organization's discretion.***

Disclaimer:

*Please note that through review and consultation of this handbook, the matters it contains are important but are not intended to be an exhaustive list of all National FFA policies and rules that are applicable to an individual's candidacy and/or service as a national officer. I understand that if I am elected as a National FFA Officer, I will voluntarily accept a commitment to volunteer service that is unique to most student organizations. Each candidate for national officer and each national officer is required to comply with the policies and rules discussed in this handbook, as well as others adopted by National FFA. In addition, a violation of any of the policies, rules, or procedures of National FFA may result in corrective action at the discretion of National FFA, up to and including termination of an individual's candidacy for or service as a national officer. **An individual's status as a candidate for national office or as a national officer is at-will, meaning that either the individual or National FFA may terminate candidacy for or service as a national officer for any reason at any time. This at-will status cannot be modified.***

Commitment to being a candidate and ultimately serving as a National FFA Officer is shown by completing this letter of commitment and agreement in the candidate application process.

National Officer Job Description

Overview

Since 1928, the National FFA Organization has been a student-led organization, with students at the forefront of many major milestones that have led to tremendous growth in the organization. A cornerstone of this leadership model is the role of officers at all levels of the organization, including nationally. Each year, a committee of nine students selected by the retiring national officer team interviews and selects six FFA members to serve as National FFA Officers. This selection process is arduous, extensive, and thorough. Once elected and approved by official delegates at the National FFA Convention & Expo, these six FFA members become the National FFA Officers and enter a year of service for the organization. During this year, officers will travel over 120,000 miles individually visiting schools, conventions, partners, alumni, and other stakeholders. They'll deliver personal messages of leadership

across the country, serve on the National FFA Board of Directors, and make their unique mark on the organization. Additionally, throughout the year all national officers must work collectively as a team to carry out the duties of the role. The role of a National FFA Officer is extremely difficult, but also extremely rewarding for the individual—truly helping them achieve premier leadership, personal growth, and career success.

Core Functions and Responsibilities

If elected, the responsibilities of a National FFA Officer include (but are not limited to) the following:

1. Serve as a positive role model for all FFA members, advisors, and stakeholders through their interpersonal communications, workshops, speeches, and conduct on social media.
2. Travel the country to visit camps, conventions, schools, sponsors, banquets, and other requests received for National FFA Officers.
3. Represent the student voice on the National FFA Board of Directors, leading and participating in all National FFA Board of Directors meetings following those outlined in the [National FFA Officer Board Policy Overview](#) document.
4. Amongst the six officers, visit every state FFA convention (schedules permitting) and meet the needs of the state association, which could include delivering multiple workshops, speeches, greetings, and interacting with participants.
5. Practice effective self-management through successful booking of all travel, reconciling of the company credit card by the deadline, and prompt and clear communication with stakeholders in planning events.
6. Advocate for agriculture, agricultural education, and FFA to legislative leaders at the national, state, and local levels.
7. Express positivity and a collaborative spirit with National FFA staff both in and out of the National FFA Center, helping staff members solve challenges when asked and assisting with informing members of programmatic opportunities.
8. Exercise critical thinking skills in solving challenging problems both logistically and otherwise.
9. Continuously research and expand knowledge on major topics in agriculture, agricultural education, and FFA, and articulate facts relating to these areas.
10. Assist in the creation and delivery of the State FFA Officer Summit.
11. Maintain responsible spending and be a good steward of organizational funding.
12. Develop engaging, informative, and educational leadership workshops and speeches for schools, conventions, camps, and other venues throughout the year of service.
13. Select the National FFA Officer Nominating Committee through an application review and interview process.
14. Participate in extensive officer training in the areas of character development, team dynamics, speech and workshop development, storytelling, the National FFA Board of Directors, communications, and more.
15. Demonstrate humble coachability in both giving and receiving feedback from management staff, National FFA staff, mentors, state staff, teachers, partners, and others you meet.
16. Consistently manage competing tasks and deadlines, including logistical tasks, workshops and speeches, TV interviews, thank you notes, and other necessary correspondence.
17. Participate in regular coaching and feedback sessions with National FFA staff.
18. Assist in content creation and delivery of the National FFA Convention & Expo.
19. Execute National FFA Officer requests as assigned based on the parameters of the request.

National Officer Expectations

As mentioned above, if an individual wants to be successful as a National FFA Officer, they should be preparing to **serve as a national officer, not** to run for office. Throughout the National Officer Selection Process, candidates are evaluated on hundreds of competency indicators. However, competency is one piece of the puzzle. Attitudes and behaviors are what truly make an officer successful. Regardless of an individual's natural talent, without the necessary attitudes and behaviors—the talent will only take them

so far. Prospective officers should expect to embody and rise to the following behaviors and expectations throughout their year of service:

Humility

Many have witnessed a national officer living in the limelight. Maybe they were on TV giving an interview, maybe it was a photo on social media after they met with the president of a Fortune 500 company, or maybe it was on stage, under the spotlight, as they spoke to an arena filled with thousands. However, for each highlight reel moment you've seen, there are many more where the officer plays a behind-the-scenes role. One where they are taking a red-eye flight to get to a convention on time, one where they are reading over documents to prepare for a board of directors meeting, or even one where they find themselves alone in a hotel room again after being away from their family and friends for more than a month. If a candidate is choosing to run for office because it looks fun to be an officer, they are only seeing a very small part of the duties a national officer fulfills.

National officers who make a true impact are those who run for office because of a deep desire to serve others. A successful year as an officer demands the utmost humility and a willingness to selflessly serve those around them. The role of a national officer is not to use their position to shine a light on, but to use the experiences they're given to shine a light on others and help others achieve their potential. A self-serving attitude or a desire to constantly be in the spotlight will leave officers feeling disappointed and burnt out once they quickly realize that is not what the year is made up of. If a candidate is running, they should know now that the position of national officer is one of service. One where they will very often have to lay down their personal desires and wants for the good of others. Many people will want their time and energy throughout the year, including members, teammates, staff, and other stakeholders. If a candidate is driven by giving themselves to serve others, though, they will see the reward in the sacrifice. The year is a year of giving of themselves so others may benefit. If a candidate's reason for running is anything other than serving others, it is time to re-evaluate motives and whether serving as an officer is the correct next step for them.

High Expectations

National officers face many expectations about how to conduct themselves and work. It requires unquestionable integrity, consummate professionalism, and an immense amount of responsibility. The odds are very good that candidates have never experienced a workload as demanding as that faced by national officers. There will be many items requiring attention, all at the same time. Meeting the numerous demands of the role can take a toll on a person physically, mentally, emotionally, and relationally. Great national officers work hard while making it look easy. A strong work ethic and wherewithal are must-haves for those wishing to serve as an officer.

The work will be constant and comes with incredibly high expectations. Officers will engage with more than 100 professional National FFA staff members as they work together to fulfill the work of our organization. Officers work with state staff who expect prompt and thorough responses to assist with the planning and organizing of their conventions and other state events. Officers will be expected to follow up with FFA members and supporters through written communication. They will be expected to manage their expenses and budgetary responsibilities in a timely and effective manner. They will be expected to develop creative and impactful speeches and workshops within the constraints of time, and then to deliver them in an engaging and educational manner. All these duties and more will have to be completed simultaneously and with excellence. In addition to all the hard work, officers also serve as the face of our organization, which means how they look and present themselves will always be on display. High expectations are placed on national officers regarding their appearance, behavior, and communication.

If it sounds demanding, that is because it is. The position comes with many responsibilities and high expectations. If elected, be prepared to grind, and show grit. However, I also know there is a dedicated team to equip, encourage, and empower officers each step of the way.

Growth

It is fair to assume that personal growth has contributed to the FFA careers of those running for national office. Undoubtedly, candidates are not the same person today that they were when they first joined this organization. At every level, they have grown, and the same will be true for individuals elected to national office. The year of an officer is one marked by incredible personal growth. Officers are pushed, challenged, and stretched far beyond their comfort zone. They are expected to become their absolute best as they strive to serve our organization and its members. Becoming a national officer is much different than becoming the best national officer in their potential. One requires candidates to be selected by the nominating committee, and the other requires commitment to continuously improve for an entire year. When serving as a national officer, there will be no time or room for resting on laurels.

While the staff at National FFA will provide immense training and opportunities for growth, the individual officer is the gatekeeper of their own growth. Choosing to push themselves toward constant growth as a person and as an officer will allow them to better serve our members and the organization. Officers become incredible leaders and influencers when they choose not to be satisfied or complacent with their personal development. Remaining humble and coachable will allow officers to take their impressive skill set to the next level as they impact members and stakeholders across the country. Continuously improving requires a willingness to be coached, self-evaluation, reflection, and goal setting. It is much easier to just perform and not care how it went or how to get better. Not having a growth mindset will only allow them to cheat themselves and to cheat others.

As candidates, individuals should have a growth mindset and be continuously working to get better. This should not be to get elected, but rather to be the very best possible version of themselves. If each candidate does this, it allows the nominating committee to make the best decision possible. The growth mindset candidates possess now will be just as valuable to them if elected. As an officer, it will be their duty to constantly improve to best serve members and to set an example of a true leader for them.

Serving as a national officer is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. If blessed with this opportunity, individuals will find the year remarkable, with many unforgettable moments. While the year can be many things, there are three things it must be for officers to get the most out of it. It must be a year of service, a year of meeting and exceeding high expectations, and a year of growth. Among many other requirements, these three will remain constant.

National Officer Competencies

The following is a list of the essential competencies required for serving as a national officer. The officer selection process is designed to screen candidates and identify those who consistently demonstrate these competencies. It is expected that officers will continue to demonstrate these and work to develop and refine their skill set in each area throughout their year of service. The competencies are listed in no particular order. Full details and explanation of the selection process can be found in the [National Officer Selection Process Handbook](#) found at this link.

Communication

Demonstrates the effective use of various forms of communication, i.e., nonverbal, listening, written, speaking, and facilitation to convey a message in both large group and one-on-one settings.

Team Player

Demonstrates the ability to work in a team setting, values diversity of opinion, works to be inclusive in the process, and is willing to put others above self.

Areas of Knowledge

Demonstrates the ability to articulate the systemic nature of food, fiber, agricultural and natural resources issues, FFA, educational issues and all respective current issues.

Character

Displays a disposition that is authentic, inclusive, responsible, honest, mature, confident, and respectful.

Influence

Demonstrates the ability to influence others through modeling expectations, building relationships, and growing.

National Officer Policies and Procedures

As an officer, you must follow many guiding principles, policies, and procedures. Candidates are required to sign an acknowledgement and agreement to these procedures as part of the application process.

Policies and Procedures Guiding National Officer Responsibilities

The following is excerpted from the Official Board Policies for the National FFA Organization and apply to candidacy as a national officer and to their service in that capacity.

1. In the event a national officer conducts themselves in a manner inconsistent with the ideals, principles, or policies of the National FFA Organization, the Chief Executive Officer shall have the authority to remove the officer from office.
2. National officers will forego all alcohol, tobacco (this includes but is not limited to smoking cigarettes, e-cigarettes, chewing tobacco, vaping and other substances), and illegal substances while involved in official or unofficial FFA activities from the day the officer is elected until they install a new national officer. This is interpreted by the National FFA Board of Directors to mean 24 hours a day, seven days a week, for the full period of service.
3. FFA prohibits the possession of weapons on its property, possession of weapons during and in the course of performing duties on behalf of FFA, and possession of weapons during in-person events, including in our parking lots or in FFA vehicles (owned or rented), outside venues hosting FFA events, subject to and consistent with applicable law. This policy is fully inclusive of National FFA Officers.
4. The practice of soliciting support for a candidate for national office is not permitted.
5. A state may recommend only one candidate for national office each year. The nomination shall be made by the designated state staff person.
6. Each national officer candidate shall be an active FFA member and eligible to retain active membership in the organization until the member completes the term of office.
7. No FFA member who has been employed by the National FFA Organization will be eligible to run for national office.
8. Nominating committee members shall be submitted to the FFA Governing Board for review.
9. To ensure the consideration of the student voice by the National FFA Board of Directors, the board of student officers (National FFA Officers) and the National FFA Board of Directors will have group input and discussion on each topic or motion presented. Voting by the National FFA Officers will not elicit action but rather offers perspective. The National FFA Board of Directors maintains acting legal authority for the organization.
10. The National FFA Organization will pay actual expenses for national officers on official travel, as assigned by the Program and Events division.
11. The National FFA Organization will assist in offsetting any premium increases on health insurance incurred due to this role.
12. The National FFA Organization will provide scholarships to national officers in an amount to be set annually by the board of directors.
13. The parents of national officers shall be partially reimbursed for expenses to attend the national FFA convention in accordance with the budget established by the National FFA Organization.
14. Requests for national officers will be received and assignments made based on availability.

National Officer Code of Ethics & Conduct

All candidates who apply for the national FFA office must review and sign a commitment form, which is found at this link. The national officer management team, with support from FFA staff, is responsible for ensuring adherence to the expectations outlined on the form, which is built into the application process.

Being elected to national FFA office means making a commitment to volunteer service that is unique to most student organizations. If elected, in addition to serving and representing all FFA members, individuals will represent the image and direction of the National FFA Organization to teachers, state staff, teacher educators, industry of agriculture executives, government leaders, the media and the general public. They will also be a teammate to five other officers and will have the support of more than 100 National FFA staff members.

The following items are commitments required of all National FFA Officers, as outlined in the [commitment and agreement](#).

1. Be dedicated and committed to FFA and the total program of education in agriculture/agribusiness.
2. Forego the possession or use of all alcohol, tobacco (this includes but is not limited to smoking cigarettes, e-cigarettes, chewing tobacco, vaping and other substances), and illegal substances at all times.
3. Hold myself to and adhere to the highest standards of integrity and honesty.
4. Avoid places or activities that in any way could raise questions as to my moral character or conduct.
5. Refrain from conduct that could harm the FFA or those associated with it.
6. Refrain from conduct that may be detrimental or embarrassing to my personal reputation or the reputation of the FFA.
7. Use wholesome and appropriate language in all speeches, presentations, and informal conversations.
8. Maintain proper dress and professional appearance for all occasions.
9. Be willing to take and follow instructions as directed by those responsible for National FFA Officers and state and national FFA programs.
10. Maintain and protect my health.
11. Regularly, and on time, write all letters, thank-you notes, emails, and other correspondence that are necessary and desirable.
12. Adhere to all policies in the National Officer Handbook.
13. Treat all FFA members equally by not favoring one over another.
14. Be actively and enthusiastically supportive of National FFA policies and programs.
15. Conduct myself in a manner that commands respect without any display of superiority.
16. Maintain dignity while being personable, concerned and interested in contacts with others.
17. Accept and seek out constructive criticism and evaluation of my total performance.
18. Through preparation and practice, develop into an effective public speaker and facilitator, as well as project a desirable image of FFA at all times.
19. Commit the entire year to national officer activities.
20. Travel while serving as National FFA Officer.
21. Consider my FFA National Officer activities to be my primary responsibility.
22. Strive to improve my ability to carry on meaningful and enjoyable conversations with individuals of all ages, backgrounds, and walks of life.
23. Periodically evaluate my personality and attitudes, while making every effort to improve.
24. Serve as a member of the team, always maintaining a cooperative attitude.
25. Work in harmony with fellow FFA officers and not knowingly engage in conversations detrimental to other FFA members, officers, or adults associated with FFA.
26. Become knowledgeable of agriculture, of education in agriculture/agribusiness and of FFA.
27. Keep myself up to date on current events.

Media Policies

As a part of their role, National FFA Officers will be asked to participate in multiple forms of print and digital media including but not limited to television appearances, radio interviews, podcasts, news articles, op-eds etc. National FFA Officers will be provided training on best practices regarding media interactions early after election. All formal appearances in print and digital media should be coordinated with National Officer Program management as well as Marketing and Communications' public relations team. Requests can be submitted to media@ffa.org. Additionally, once elected, National FFA Officers are to review and sign this [release form](#).

Policy on Scheduling of National Officers

The program and events division will have primary responsibility for arranging and coordinating the National FFA Officers' schedule of activities. In doing so, the program and events division will arrange an exciting year of activities. The overall objective of officer scheduling is to represent FFA at local, state, national and international activities. This will be done in a way that will inform, motivate and inspire FFA members, advisors, state staff, teacher educators, sponsors and others in government, business and industry to achieve the mission, strategies, values and core goals of FFA. In scheduling officers for events and activities, the Program and Events division shall observe the following prioritized list in determining what potential activities should take precedence in scheduling national officers' time:

1. Orientation, training, and experiences based on the demands of the national officer's year of service.
 - Provide adequate team time and individual preparation time to put on quality events, such as the National FFA Convention & Expo and State Officer Summit.
2. Official national FFA meetings, conferences, and state conventions.
 - National meetings including: FFA Board of Directors, Foundation Board of Trustees, State Officer Summit, National FFA Convention & Expo and other meetings mandated by the National FFA Board of Directors, Board of Trustees, or bylaws and constitution of the National FFA Organization.
 - Attend state FFA conventions—one national officer will be assigned to at least one day of each state convention annually as requested.
3. Public relations activities for FFA:
 - Attend national and international meetings that would be beneficial to the National FFA Organization
 - Attend annual meetings and/or conventions of National FFA Foundation sponsors.
 - Participate in FFA Week.
4. Business and industry visits:
 - Visits scheduled specifically for this purpose.
 - When national officers are traveling to state conventions and/or other meetings, utilize travel proximity to schedule other business and industry visits as may be helpful to the organization.
5. Planned "down time/home time" adequately spaced throughout the year.
 - Management staff will ensure downtime is scheduled.
6. Schedule requests from states and chapters for chapter visits and state conferences. These would be assigned after all the above have been completed, on a first-come, first-served basis.
 - For additional information on the best practices communicated to requester of national officers, review the [National Officer Request Best Practices](#).

Officer Experience At-A-Glance

The following activities will consume the workload of the national officers' year of service. Adequate time will be provided for training, preparation, evaluation, self-improvement, relationships, rejuvenation, and team building.

Task	Month(s)	Time
National Officer Orientation	November	4 days

National Officer Training	December + January	5 weeks
January Board of Directors Meeting	January	3 days
International Experience	January + February	10 days
Experience Week	January	3 days
Business and Industry Visits	February-August	On-going
FFA Week	February	1 week
State Conventions	March-July	4-6 weeks
Camps, Conferences, Fairs & Events	March-September	3-5 weeks
Federal Level Advocacy	May	1 week
State Officer Summit (& Preparation)	July	14 days
National Officer Team Retreat	August	1 week
Nominating Committee Selection	August	5 days
Convention Training/Planning	August – September	4 weeks
Final Convention Prep	October	2 weeks
National FFA Convention	October	1 week
Offboarding	November	1 week

Officer Correspondence

Trip reports on all chapter, regional and state activities are to be submitted via the appropriate channel within one week of the event closing. National officers are to report on noteworthy national programs, activities, concerns, general comments, and information that will be helpful to the next team of national officers in preparing for the event.

National officer management will confirm or decline requests made by individuals, groups, businesses, chapters, and states for a national officer visit. Such assignments of officers and subsequent notification will take place prior to approving an event. National officer management will also request specific details from the personnel in charge of the event or activity via the official request form. These details will be shared with the national officer(s) assigned to the activity. From that point, all follow-up correspondence and communication regarding the event will become the responsibility of the national officer(s) assigned. Prompt reply to correspondence to both the national and state staff is a must.

Follow-up notes of congratulations and encouragement are a must. Officers should note the names and addresses of FFA members, advisors, sponsors, and others with whom he/she wishes to follow up. Officers should be generous in this endeavor and send out notes frequently. A system should be maintained for keeping and remembering the names of those to whom correspondence is sent. The officers will check their FFA voicemail and email daily.

Technology, Supplies and Social Media Policies

An overview of these policies can be found at [this link](#). FFA will make available to each officer the appropriate computer software and email accessibility to allow for electronic communication with each other and FFA staff. This system can be used by National FFA Officers and FFA staff as a quick and efficient means of getting messages to officers at times when tracking them down by telephone may be difficult. National FFA will make available appropriate computer hardware (size and composition suitable for easy traveling) upon reasonable request from an officer at the beginning of their term. The officer is responsible for any loss or damage to any FFA-issued equipment.

Each National FFA Officer is provided with an FFA-issued phone number to be used for all official business during the year. National FFA will cover the cost associated with this number.

These systems will also be used by national officers to communicate with FFA staff, particularly about executing the procedures outlined under Officer Correspondence.

The National FFA Organization acknowledges that social media and the internet provide important and effective means of communication. National officers are expected to demonstrate common sense and good judgment when using any form of social media (private, personal, and/or public accounts) and the Internet. In the event the National FFA Organization determines that inappropriate content was posted by a national officer, they must delete that material if requested by the National FFA Organization.

Travel Expenses

A national officer will find that many requests will be made for them to travel and participate in activities. It is important that the officer understands the difference between various types of travel. Official travel is authorized by the National FFA Organization and generally includes participation in FFA activities on a state, regional or national level. This travel is assigned, thus funded by the National FFA Organization. The National FFA Organization will also pay for a national officer's lodging and meals to stay in a location between events, individual expenses (sightseeing, meeting friends, personal entertainment) will not be covered. A travel policy overview can be found at [this link](#).

Corporate Credit Card

The National FFA Organization will issue each officer a credit card in their name to pay for incurred business expenses throughout the year, including travel, lodging, meals, and supplies. The officer must follow the [official credit card policies](#) of the organization, which are reviewed and agreed upon once the officer is elected. Mileage for official travel using a personal vehicle will be reimbursed to the officer at the current mileage rate outlined by the National FFA Organization.

Personal Living Expenses

Each national officer is allotted \$7,500 /year as a personal living allowance. This living allowance will be issued monthly at the amount of \$625 to the debit or bank account of their choice. It is expected that officers will use good judgment and thrift when spending FFA funds.

Airline Travel Procedures

- Officers will book all airline tickets through the National FFA Organization's online travel system.
- National officers will not fly in non-commercial planes while on official business unless approval is granted by the organization's FFA Executive Leadership Team (ELT).
- All six national officers may not travel together on one plane without ELT approval. The National President and the 1st Vice President should not travel together in one plane when possible.
- Air miles accumulated under "frequent flyer" or similar programs that are accumulated as a result of national FFA officer travel may be credited to the account of the officer and may be used at their discretion if the reward travel does not interfere with official travel.

National FFA Convention & Expo

- Each national officer will provide a list of individuals, a maximum of 12, for complimentary registration to the national FFA convention and expo. This list must be submitted to national officer program management in August.
- Depending on budget, each national officer family will receive a stipend to help defray expenses to the national convention and expo. This money may be applied to the cost of hotel rooms at convention, flights, meals, etc. Receipts must be turned in with an expense report to the National Officer Program Management for accounting purposes.
- Each national officer family will have three rooms held in a block at the hotel where the national officers stay during convention. These rooms are at the expense of the national officer's family. Not all three rooms must be used by the family—any rooms not reserved will become available to the other national officer families.

Training, Coaching, and Development

National officers receive extensive training in a range of areas to help them excel in the roles they have been elected to. This training comes in the form of direct instruction, relationships, and experience.

Training Experience

From November to February, national officers experience extensive training and professional development in a variety of areas. These include, but are not limited to:

- Responsibilities of National Officers
- Attitudes and Behaviors of Officers
- Expectations & Goal Setting
- Effective Workshop Development and Delivery
- Storytelling
- Team Dynamics, Conflict Management, and Personality Assessments
- Marketing Training
- Foundation/Partnership Visits Training
- Advocacy & Literacy Training

The **Center for Creative Leadership's 70-20-10 model** tells us that while 10% of our learning and development comes from direct instruction, 70% comes from real-life experience and 20% through peer and mentor relationships. With this in mind, national officers are given opportunities to apply knowledge gained and receive feedback on their performance. Utilizing [Kolb's Model of Experiential Learning](#), officers continue to improve and refine their skills through repeated experiences, reflection, analysis, and application. Some examples of this include:

- Visits to local FFA chapters after writing and practicing workshops and speeches immediately after their development.
- Consistently delivering TV and radio interviews following marketing training.
- Mock and real-life partnership visits immediately following visit training.
- Multiple days in Washington, D.C. visiting with legislators and other agriculture related organizations.
- Three days in a state association (experience week) visiting multiple FFA chapters each day, delivering speeches and workshops with reflection and feedback each night to apply the next day.
- FFA week visits with a National FFA staff member

In addition to these planned experiences, officers gain extensive experience throughout the year and are encouraged to continually apply Kolb's model to improve in their next experience.

Coaching and Development

Part of the national officer management team is a staff member dedicated to focusing on officers' coaching, training, and overall development as officers. This is in addition to the numerous staff members officers will be able to work with, who will assist in their development as well.

Officers will work with their coach regularly to reflect on their experiences, discuss performance, expectations, and receive feedback on what is going well and where they can improve. Their coach will both make direct observations and review feedback from various events to help officers become the best versions of themselves possible. In addition to performance-based coaching, the entire national officer management team is dedicated to preparing officers for life after office, including helping them become better self-managers, prepare for careers, improve employability, and simply serve as life coaches. This team is dedicated to the officers and are people the team can rely on in challenging situations. Beyond their direct managers, officers will meet an extensive number of mentors, peers, and other individuals they'll work with, from whom they'll glean skills and attitudes that will benefit them in their officer year and beyond. The entire National FFA Organization is dedicated to supporting, growing,

and assisting the national officer team and helping them reach their full potential for premier leadership, personal growth, and career success—just as the officers do for countless FFA members. This coaching philosophy approach and commitment are outlined in the shared [culture of accountability document](#), which we ask elected officers and National staff to sign together.

Management Staff Contact Information

Choosing to seek a position on the National FFA Officer team should not be taken lightly, and we hope individuals will dedicate extensive thought and purposeful reflection to it. Because of the enormity of this commitment, all candidates, elected officers and elected officer parents/guardians are required to sign this [National Officer Handbook acknowledgment](#). The national officer management team is deeply committed to the role national officers serve and truly wants to support both current and prospective officers. If you have questions about this role or what life as an officer could look like, we encourage you to reach out to a member of the national officer management team listed below.

National Officer Management Team

Skylar Clingan & Denise Mills

nationalofficers@ffa.org

