

# Contest Opportunities!

## Key:

⇒ *Presenter can read or summarize in their own words*

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≡ *Directions to presenter for workshop questions and relating items discussed in workshop to our lives*

⇒ **Intro:** *Being an FFA member means so much more than just zipping up the blue and gold jacket, working on a farm, or learning all there is to know about the agriculture industry. FFA also gives members the opportunity to compete in 24 nationally recognized FFA Career Development Events (CDEs). Members sign up for a CDE area and compete in that at many levels, from the local chapter level all the way to the national level at the National FFA Convention held annually in cities across the United States.*

## Activity: Word Search- How many words do you know?

Directions: Break students into teams of 3-4

Give each group a piece of paper or have them take one out of their own

Pick a letter out of the alphabet (*refrain from letters such as q,x, or z to keep the activity in bounds*)

Give the students 3-5 minutes to develop a list as a group of as many words as they can that start with the letter that you have picked

When the time is up, have each group count how many words they have come up with.

Congratulate the winning group, and give them a small prize if you have one, such as candy, etc.

### Intro Slide

Title: What is a Career Development Event (CDE)? ≡ (*ask if anybody can explain a CDE*)

A competition related to a certain area of agriculture allowing students to test their knowledge in that area while developing lifelong career skills

There are 24 nationally recognized CDEs, and some states have more state contests to deal with local agricultural economies and interests

≡ (*Relate the previous activity to a career development event ie: just as you took skills you possess and put them to work to compete, a CDE also does the same thing*)

## Slide 2

Title: Why do we have CDEs?

CDEs give FFA members the opportunity to develop their potential for premier leadership, personal growth, and career success    ⋈    *(explain that this complies with the mission statement of the FFA-FFA makes a positive difference in the lives of students...)*

CDEs give students the opportunity to learn life-long skills in a competitive environment

Prepare students for any and all careers related to agriculture    ⋈    *(Explain that ag. Related career areas are very broad and there is something that everyone will enjoy)*

To give students the chance to take knowledge gained from an agriculture education program and realize that they will actually use this knowledge in real life

## Slide 3

Title: Do you have what it takes?    ⋈    *(have students throw out a few skills essential to being successful in a CDE)*

What does it take to be successful in a career development event?

- The ability to think logically and critically
- The ability to communicate clearly
- The ability to perform effectively and consistently

⇒ *You have the ability to explore approximately 300 agriculture related career fields, chose the one you are interested in develop the skills necessary to be successful in that area,, and compete in the career development event most closely related to your field of interest. Once you find the area you like, however, you must develop or enhance your skills and knowledge in that area to perform in the contest to the best of your ability. What does it take to prepare for a Career Development Event?*

## Slide 4

Title: Preparation for a Career Development Event

Team members must work with advisors, teachers, business owners, legislatures, or many other people to get the "whole picture" of that career development event, giving you the chance to work with your communities and interact in many ways.    ⋈    *(define the "whole picture" in such a way that students realize that CDEs are very broad and consist of a wide range of topics in that CDE)*

Just like practicing in a sport, an FFA member must regularly practice to get themselves ready for a contest

Preparing for a CDE event is preparing for the future

⇒ *Competing in Career development events gives students the skills, knowledge, and know-how of a particular area or agriculture that they pursue a career in. But, for those who might not think that to be important, as it truly is, there are other advantages to an FFA member to compete in a Career Development Event.*

## **Slide 5**

Title: Reaping the benefits of a CDE

Most importantly, CDEs put life long skills into the hands of FFA members to prepare them for a career    ⇐ *(stress this to be the most important of the benefits)*

Fun and Friends- meet new people while spending time with your previous friends

Travel- Regional, State, and National contests    ⇐ *(Explain areas traveled to, ie: State convention-4-5 days in Cheyenne, National Convention-one week in Louisville, KY)*

Awards and Recognition- for your outstanding achievement in a CDE, a member has the potential to get recognized and awarded with plaques, ribbons, trips, and even straight up cash

⇒ *Career development Events are very important to the FFA as they help the FFA instill its hopes and values in its members. FFA pushes people to become as successful as they can in real life and achieve so much more that they want to or think is possible. I encourage you to take the time to join and enjoy a Career Development contest and gain all you can from it, and hopefully walk away with awards and recognition.*

# **Leadership Opportunities!**

**Key:**

*Presenter can read or summarize in their own words*

Directions to presenter for workshop questions and relating items discussed in workshop to our lives

**Intro:** *How many of you can tell me what the campaign slogan of milk is? (Got Milk?) Well today I am going to ask you a very similar question. Have you got leadership? How many of you think you have got leadership? Well, in the process we will also learn a little more about an organization that has really got leadership...FFA! ( transition into activity.)*

**Activity:** Four word game, Leadership style: Same as usual, but put them in a situation that it is required to be a leader (i.e. solving a problem)  
Directions: On the chalk board have the students list four random words.  
Decide on your situation that puts the students in a leadership position.  
Pick as many volunteers that are necessary to act out the situation.  
Have your volunteers act out your leadership situation using only the four words that they picked at the beginning of the activity.  
After 20 to 30 seconds stop your actors and move directly into the slide show.

### **Slide 1**

Title: What is leadership? (*Ask audience to come up with a one to two word definition*)  
Leadership is influence! That means to act upon someone or something else in a positive manner.  
Leadership is an ability that we can develop through practice.  
Leadership develops over time, not in a day!  
Leadership starts with an individual choice to influence others!  
FFA is the perfect practice ground for your leadership skills! Check it out!

*(Relate the previous activity to their definition of leadership. ie: just as you took your 'influence' to help achieve the common goal of \_\_\_\_\_. )*

### **Slide 2**

Title: Do you have what it takes? (*Have students throw out a few skills essential to being a successful leader*)  
What does it take to be leader in the FFA?  
-The ability to influence  
-The ability to communicate clearly  
-The ability to sacrifice and compromise  
-The ability to perform effectively and consistently

*Fortunately, everyone in this room possesses these skills. Now we just need to refine them a bit. Lucky enough, the nation's largest youth leadership organization is more than willing to help out! There are so many ways to become a leader in the National FFA! Try these next examples on for size!*

### **Slide 3**

Title: Pack your bags!  
The National FFA Organization offers a series of Leadership and Personal Growth conferences expanding on the mission of the organization (*Explain the FFA mission statement to students, expanding on premier leadership and personal growth, which are pertinent to this workshop*)  
F.I.R.E is hosted by the state FFA Association, and challenges attendees to find their inspiration and reach for excellence in life and FFA.  
The Wyoming FFA Leadership Camp invites FFA members to spend a week in the mountains above Lander, Wyoming to discover leadership and personal growth at 9,000 feet!

The National FFA's premier leadership event is the Washington Leadership Conference held annually in our nation's capitol! FFA members from across the country discover what it takes to become an authentic leader by solving problems, building relationships, living with character, and being guided by service!

The National FFA also offers a variety of opportunities to travel overseas through the FFA Global program!

*(Expand on each conference to put a personal spin on the workshop. Students will become as excited about these activities as you make them!)*

#### **Slide 4**

Title: Becoming an Officer...

Those members who want to take on a larger role in their local chapter or state association have to option of running for an office, placing them in a perfect role to become a leader!

Members can reach this goal many ways, but the best is to start out small by volunteering for various committees and activities within their chapter *(Explain some of your chapter's committees and activities here!)*

The next step is filling out an application and interviewing for your chapter officer team! Your local advisor can help you reach your goal of becoming a chapter leader! *(Talk about your chapter officer team, i.e. role you play, number of officers, qualifications, election process, etc.)*

Those who wish to take it to the next level can run for a state or even national office!

They then have an opportunity to positively influence FFA members across the state, country, or even world!

*FFA members who take advantage of the many leadership opportunities FFA has to offer can become officers at the local, state, and national level! These members utilize the skills they have learned at the many leadership conferences to influence their members, and develop the FFA brand! The extraordinary FFA legacy has made it a true honor to be an officer in the FFA, which will open many doors in the future.*

#### **Slide 5**

Title: Got Life?

Most importantly, leadership experiences put life long skills into the hands of FFA members to prepare them for a career and their future! *(stress this to be the most important of the benefits)*

Living a lifetime of leadership will:

1. Deeper influence with those who follow you.
2. Successful and relevant organizations
3. Larger amount of followers

“A leader is someone who translates intention into reality and sustains it.” –

Warren Bennis

*The choice to be a leader isn't always an easy one. Being a leader is by no means a nine to five kind of job. By stepping up in your chapter, and committing yourself to leadership you and your chapter will stand out! Today you have learned a little bit more about an*

*organization that truly has 'got leadership'! Just like we learned earlier, the choice is now yours. By joining FFA you will be offered unlimited opportunities to succeed and to grasp onto leadership. Ask yourself, have you got leadership?*

## **Award Opportunities**

*Presenter can read or summarize*

### **Slide 1**

**Intro:** *FFA has been an important part to the growth of members for over 75 years due to the vast opportunities offered. Whether it's gaining the skills necessary to become a great leader or having success with an SAE, the FFA truly provides us with great opportunities. One opportunity is earning awards in the FFA.*

Do you have an SAE? Do you have a drive to succeed? Do you want to go places? Then there are awards available to you through the FFA! Take a look!

*Compile a list of proficiency award areas they are aware of and that your chapter offers. Then Show slide*

### **Slide 2**

#### **Proficiencies**

Refer to [http://www.ffa.org/programs/proficiency/documents/prof\\_descriptions04.pdf](http://www.ffa.org/programs/proficiency/documents/prof_descriptions04.pdf) for a full list and description of proficiency award areas.

- Available at the chapter, State and National levels.
- Developed to help members set goals and learn practical skills.
- There are two categories for most proficiencies
  - Placement
  - Entrepreneurship
- If you make it to Nationals in the top four, you get the chance to tour Costa Rica!

### **Slide 3**

**Be a Star!** *If time permits, talk about your chapter's specifics with each award. Let members know that each level of achievement is built on the level before.*

Star Farmer Awards are given to outstanding members at different levels of the FFA. Chapter Levels-The winners show active involvement in the Chapter's activities along with their SAE achievements.

Each category is awarded with a plaque.

- Star Discovery
  - ~ 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grade member who shows leadership and has been active in the Chapter.
- Star Greenhand
  - ~ 1<sup>st</sup> year member who has a strong SAE developed.
- Chapter Star Farmer
  - ~ Member who has an outstanding SAE in production agriculture.
- Chapter Star in Agribusiness
  - ~ Similar to Star Farmer, but the member's SAE is in agribusiness.
- Chapter Star in Agriculture Placement

- ~ Member with an outstanding placement SAE.
- Chapter Star in Agriscience
  - ~ Member with and outstanding agrisciene based SAE.

#### **Slide 4**

##### **Be a Star!**

Star Farmer Awards are given to outstanding members at different levels of the FFA. State Level- The winners show active involvement in the FFA along with their SAE achievements. Each winner is provided with \$300 from the National FFA Foundation.

- State Star Farmer
  - ~ Achievement in a production Agriculture SAE.
- State Star in Agribusiness
  - ~ The top applicant for the State FFA Degree with an agribusiness SAE.
- State Star in Agriculture Placement
  - ~ The top applicant for the State FFA Degree with an agriculture placement SAE.
- State Star in Agriscience
  - ~ The top applicant for the State FFA Degree with an agriscience SAE.

#### **Slide 5**

##### **Be a Star!**

Star Farmer Awards are given to outstanding members at different levels of the FFA. National Level- The winner shows both leadership and career development in their SAE area. They also receive \$2,000 from the National FFA Foundation. The three runners up receive \$1,000.

- American Star Farmer
  - ~ The FFA member with the top production Agriculture SAE.
- American Star in Agribusiness
  - ~ The FFA member with the best agribusiness SAE.
- American Star in Agriculture Placement
  - ~ The FFA member with outstanding achievement in a placement SAE.
- American Star in Agriscience
  - ~ The top applicant for the American FFA Degree with an agriscience based SAE.

#### **Slide 6**

##### **Scholastic Achievement**

The FFA helps members in many ways; one important way is with scholarships.

- Wyoming gives several scholarships each year at State convention. From college scholarships to WLC scholarships, the awards are there for you!
- Most State and National activities have scholarships available to help you get the experience!
- Ask your advisor about getting a hold of the \$1.8 million given out each year or visit [www.ffa.org](http://www.ffa.org)

**Slide 7**

**Why reach high?**

If you choose to excel in all that you do, you will reap the benefits and go far in the FFA. Don't forget, this is only the beginning! There are endless possibilities for you, no matter what aspect of the FFA you are interested in, there are awards to be claimed!