



2010

# Iowa FFA Association State Officer Candidate

# Manual



Player's Creed  
Risk Boldly  
Seize the Day  
Seek Improvement  
Support Honestly

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*"The difference between the impossible and the possible lies in a person's determination."*

Tommy Lasorda



Dear Iowa FFA Officer Candidate,

Congratulations!! If you are reading this application, you are considering running for an Iowa FFA Association State Office. Throughout the process you will be able to meet other candidates from across Iowa, build great friendships with other FFA members, and discover more about yourself. I wish you the best of luck in your candidacy and overall experience!

Throughout the upcoming year, you will have the opportunity for an outstanding experience. You will be able to be a part of something bigger than yourself, an opportunity to represent over 12,000 Iowa FFA members. If elected, you will work together with others as a member of a team to make decisions for our organization that will set its course; not only for next year but for many years to come.

Currently, you are an individual with different ideas. However, you cannot serve Iowa FFA alone; in which case we would elect only one officer. Throughout the upcoming year, you will be asked to come together as a team to harness your ideas. You have the privilege to work with eight other individuals who have the same heart of service that you do. You will learn the essence of hard work, dedication, cooperation, and compromise. Through your experience you will discover what it means to sacrifice your year for the betterment of the Iowa FFA.

The officer position that your new state officer FFA jacket will read doesn't matter. All of your personal accomplishments and aspirations don't matter. What does matter are the 12,000 Iowa FFA members that you serve. Being a part of this team will be what you make of it. Remember that you are united by agriculture and the blue corduroy jacket that you wear, with the common goal of helping Iowa FFA members reach their potential in premier leadership, personal growth and career success.

You have taken a bold step as a leader and as a person of outstanding character. However, that leadership and character doesn't end at the conclusion of the state leadership conference when the new officer team is announced; it will continue the rest of your life. This experience will be what you make of it; so make it a good one! Whether or not you are wearing a blue corduroy FFA jacket that reads "Association", I look forward to watching your service to this great organization. On behalf of the Iowa FFA Association, I sincerely wish you the best of luck!

Sincerely,

Ryan Augustine  
2009-2010 Iowa FFA President

# Opportunity Outlook

Throughout your year of service you will have the chance to be involved in many exciting opportunities. Some of these activities that you will be involved with include:

- Building Leaders and Strong Teams of Officers
- District Leadership Conference
- National Leadership Conference for State Officers
- Iowa State Fair
- Farm Progress Show
- Greenhand Fire-Up
- State Leadership Conference for District Officers (Fall and Spring)
- Chapter Visits
- National Convention
- STEP Conference
- Iowa FFA Today Publication
- District Officer Team (State Vice Presidents)
- District Convention
- State Leadership Conference

*“Success seems to be connected with action. Successful people keep moving. They make mistakes, but they don't quit”*

Conrad Hilton

## Overview of the 2009-2010 Iowa FFA State Officer Calendar

Date	Activity	Location
April 27-28, 2009	Spring State Leadership Camp for District Officers	Boone, IA
April 28-May 1, 2009	BLAST-Off Training	Ames, IA
May 19-21, 2009	Communication Training	Ames, IA
May and June	District Leadership Conference for Chapter Officers Training	Various Locations
June 16, 2009	Iowa FFA Foundation Golf Tournament	Pleasant Hill, IA
June 18, 2009	Iowa FFA Board of Directors Meeting	Ames, IA
June 23-24, 2009	IAAE Conference	Ames, IA
June 30 – July 5, 2009	National Leadership Conference for State Officers	Springfield, IL
August 9-23, 2009	Iowa State Fair	Des Moines, IA
September 21, 2009	Iowa FFA Board of Directors Meeting	Des Moines, IA
September 28-29, 2009	Fall State Leadership Camp for District Officers	Boone, IA
October 18-25, 2009	National FFA Convention	Indianapolis, IN
November 13, 2009	STEP Conference Practice	Ames, IA
November 13-14, 2009	STEP Conference	Boone, IA
December 7, 2009	Iowa FFA Board of Directors Meeting	Des Moines, IA
January 6-8, 2010	State Leadership Conference Planning & Brainstorming Meeting	Ankeny, IA
January 19, 2010	Iowa FFA Legislative Symposium	Des Moines, IA
February 20, 2010	Proficiency/National Chapter Judging	Ankeny, IA
March 6 or 13, 2010	Possible District Convention	TBA
March 22, 2010	Iowa FFA Board of Directors Meeting	Des Moines, IA
April 13-14, 2010	Set- up Convention	Des Moines, IA
April 15-16, 2010	Iowa FFA Leadership Conference	Des Moines, IA
Various Dates	Multiple State Officer Meeting	Various Locations
Various Dates	Career Development Events	Various Locations

**The 2010-2011 Iowa FFA State Officer Calendar will be distributed at the 2010 State Leadership Conference.**

# Preparing for State Office

To prepare for the interview process:

- Complete application and have it postmarked to the Iowa Department of Education by February 15, 2010  
Alan Spencer  
Iowa Department of Education  
400 E. 14<sup>th</sup> Street  
Grimes State Office Building  
Des Moines, IA 50319-0166
- Practice interview process
- Review FFA Student Handbook and FFA Manual
- Be aware of current agricultural and education issues
- Be familiar with the Iowa FFA Annual Report Data

State Officer Interviews will be conducted PRIOR to the State Leadership Conference according to the following schedule:

- Tuesday, April 13, 2010 – 9:00 PM – Officer Candidates Report to Des Moines
- Wednesday, April 14, 2010 – All Day – State Officer Interviews
- The Iowa FFA will secure hotel rooms for Tuesday night and Wednesday (if needed) for all candidates. If your FFA Chapter is in Des Moines on Wednesday, you will be able to move back with your chapter. Your FFA Chapters will be invoiced for your portion of that hotel stay.

The interview process will consist of:

1. Written exam
2. One-on-One Personal Interview Round
3. Agricultural Issues and Agricultural Education Knowledge Interview Round
4. Group Interview Round

The election process:

- Members who are nominated for office will be announced Thursday, April 15, 2010, during the delegate business session in Vets Auditorium.
- Those members that are balloted will present a 2 minute prepared speech and a final question round in front of the delegate body.
- The 2010-2011 Iowa FFA State Officer team will be announced at the conclusion of the 4<sup>th</sup> General Session on Friday, April 16, 2010.

Following the 4<sup>th</sup> General Session a mandatory meeting will be held for the incoming and outgoing State Officer teams. The meeting will last approximately 2 hours.

# Past State Officer Reflections

*"Serving as an officer in the FFA is an honor, a privilege, and a great experience, no matter what level you are at. But, to me the best parts about being a state officer are two rewards: meeting so many new people and the "thank-you" smiles of members from all across the state. You can not even imagine how many opportunities there are to meet and interact with members. Take advantage of each opportunity and get to know as many members as possible because they are the reason you have an office. Secondly, you many never hear and actual "thank-you," but uses your eyes and look around at every event you attend. Look at the members, and specifically look at their faces. You helped create each smile on every face their, and each one of those is like 10,000 thank-you's. The year will go quick; it will be full of challenges, good times, and bad, but most of all it will be fun. Congratulations, good luck, and enjoy!"*

**Shamus Brown**

**2005-2006 Iowa FFA State President**

*"One of the most amazing and perhaps unexpected joys of holding a state office is the inevitable transformation that occurs in individuals because of their year of service. Talk about personal growth! The hundreds of people you meet from across Iowa and the varied experiences you share inspire profound growth and maturity in most every officer. Working with eight other student officers assures that you'll always have a support line, and friends to share this excellent experience with. If you're an individual who is willing to be dedicated, approach situations with an open mind, and work hard to make a positive difference in the lives of FFA members, then state office is something you should definitely consider."*

**Ryan Stien**

**2005-2006 Iowa FFA Secretary**

*"My advice to you, as a state officer candidate, is to be aware of what you are doing, what you want to do, and where you want to go. If you are able to know every aspect of whom you are and what you want to be, you will have no problems with the state officer election process. Be honest and true to yourself. Put yourself in the delegate's shoes. It wasn't too long ago that you were sitting in Hilton, watching the "oh-so-cool" state officer present opening ceremonies. Well, now, this could potentially be you. Study hard, be yourself, and **HAVE FUN!** No matter what the outcome is, running for state office is an experience of a lifetime."*

**Sarah Rammelsburg**

**2005-2006 Iowa FFA Northeast State Vice President**

*"The year of a state officer is a year of service. The decision to run for a state office should not be made lightly or without a sincere commitment to serve. Iowa FFA officers have great responsibility to the state and their duties often require extensive travel. Serving as an Iowa FFA officer is truly an once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. The professionalism and abilities of state officers is the result of dynamic training that enables them to effectively lead our state. In their year of service, state officers develop lifelong friendships not just with each other, but also with members across the state and country"*

**Brian Anderson**

**2005-2006 Iowa FFA Northwest State Vice President**

*State office provides a person with an enormous psychic income that he/she could never imagine. It is incredible merely knowing that 365 days exist to make positive differences in the lives of other members in the most creative ways that one can invent. Officers also have the privilege to undergo a personal re-evaluation; strengthening every aspect of their leadership and teamwork abilities. For me, serving the Iowa FFA Association has been the most fabulous opportunity that I have experienced yet because it has allowed me to serve others, gain a better definition of myself, and discover the underlying aspects of life, such as service, that I am passionate about!*

**Jennifer Leistikow  
2006-2007 Iowa FFA Secretary**

*To serve as an Iowa FFA Officer is an opportunity. An opportunity to make a difference in the lives of agricultural education students, FFA members, and utilize your own strengths and talents as part of a team. The FFA Organization has a foundation built upon service. You may have the opportunity to serve as an Iowa FFA Officer, but many outstanding individuals not elected will be needed to build and develop Iowa FFA for the future. Be honest to yourself, honest to others, zip-up your jacket and smile!*

**Matt Dolch  
2006-2007 Iowa FFA President**

*To serve as an Iowa FFA Officer is to commit an entire year of your life to the progressive advancement of the Iowa FFA Association. This commitment should not be taken lightly but also should be greatly encouraged. There is no better opportunity than state FFA office to positively impact the lives of other student members and advocate for the agricultural industry, all while strengthening your own skills, talents, and abilities to reach your greatest potential! Be yourself and meet this challenge "opportunity" with confidence. Best of luck!*

**Dan Hansen  
2008-2009 Iowa FFA President**

*"What you sow today you reap tomorrow, so  
make it good."*

Terry Bradshaw



To complete the application, please use the State Officer application which is available in the signature forms located under the Downloadable Files on the Iowa FFA website.

## STATE OFFICER CANDIDATE APPLICATION

Iowa FFA Association  
Iowa FFA State Leadership Conference

Chapter ID Number: \_\_\_\_\_

School P.O. (Town): \_\_\_\_\_

Chapter Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please Type:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ FFA District: \_\_\_\_\_

Complete Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Complete College Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

College Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Birth Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

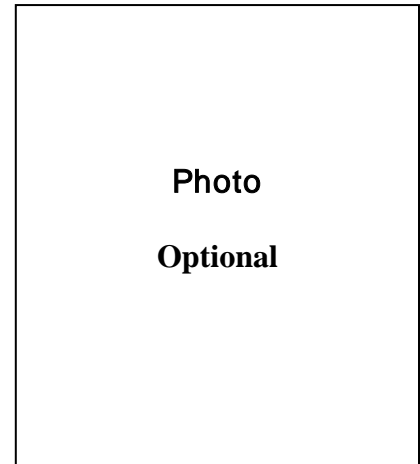


Photo  
Optional

**If elected to an office, I will:**

Yes	No	
		a. Be available for a joint officer meeting <u>immediately</u> following the final general session of the Iowa FFA Leadership Conference. (The meeting will last approximately 2 hours.)
		b. Have time to devote to the organization and fulfill the responsibilities of this office.
		c. Attend all Iowa FFA Board of Directors meetings plus special Iowa FFA Officer Team meetings and work sessions, including a one week planning meeting in late December.
		d. Attend Blast Off Training ( <b>April 27 - 30, 2010</b> ), Communication Training ( <b>May 18-20, 2010</b> ), and SLCDO ( <b>April 26-27, 2010</b> and <b>September 27-28, 2010</b> ).
		e. Attend the Iowa FFA Foundation Golf Tournament in June 2010.
		f. Participate in the National Leadership Conference for State Officers on <b>June 20-26, 2010</b> .
		g. Plan, prepare, and cooperate with fellow FFA officers at the Iowa State Fair on <b>August 8-22, 2010</b> and the Farm Progress Show on <b>August 31 – September 2, 2010</b> .
		h. Serve as an official delegate at the National FFA Convention on <b>October 17 - 24, 2010</b> .
		i. Attend career development events in June, August, and September.
		j. Attend monthly planning meetings as scheduled throughout the year.
		k. Attend other functions sponsored by the Iowa FFA Association.

**Dates FFA Degrees were received:**

Greenhand \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter \_\_\_\_\_ Iowa \_\_\_\_\_

**Years of High School Ag Ed Completed** (include this year, if in HS): \_\_\_\_\_

**Years as an Active FFA Member:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Planned College to Attend:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Probable Major:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Office Desired:**    **1st Choice** \_\_\_\_\_                      **2nd Choice** \_\_\_\_\_

**I. Present Supervised Agricultural Experience Program:**

Productive Enterprises, Agribusiness Ownership, Ag Placement, or Ag Experiences	Scope - Specify number of animals, acres, customers, hours, etc.	% owned by candidate

**II. FFA Activities**

A. Offices held in FFA	Chapter	District	State	Months of Service
B. FFA Leadership Activities	Chapter	District	State	National

C. FFA Cooperative and/or Community Service Activities	Scope		Responsibilities	

D. FFA Awards (Not Degrees)	Chapter	District	State	National

**III. School and Community Leadership**

Activities	Local	District	State	National

As a candidate for state office in the Iowa FFA Association, I certify that all information is accurate.

Candidate's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

As a parent/guardian of this candidate, I agree to support his/her candidacy to serve as a State FFA Officer and if my son/daughter is elected, I will provide the cooperation and encouragement necessary for him/her to effectively serve active FFA members and the Iowa FFA Association.

Parent/Guardian's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

This candidate has my endorsement as a person of ability, integrity, character, and high standards that would qualify this person, if elected as a State FFA Officer to serve with credit to the members, his/her school, and the FFA.

\_\_\_\_\_  
FFA Chapter Advisor's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
School Administrator's Signature

**COMPLETE AND ATTACH THE TOP FIVE QUALIFICATIONS, FOUR ESSAY RESPONSES, IOWA FFA TODAY ARTICLE, AND COMMITMENT FORM.**

## STATE OFFICER CANDIDATE: Qualifications and Essay Responses

Candidate Name: \_\_\_\_\_

### Overall Top Five Qualifications for State Office

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

### Respond to Each Statement in 150 Words or Less

Describe how your involvement in school activities has affected your leadership development.

Describe a situation when you have been a member of a team and your role on that team.

Describe your involvement in the agricultural and natural resources industry.

Explain why you desire to be a state officer.

- Write an article suitable for the Iowa FFA Today about an FFA member with an outstanding SAE.
- Do not write about someone from your own chapter.
- The article should be 150-200 words in length and contain a title.
- Please attach a photo and caption. (Photo may be printed on photo paper or on plain paper.)

## STATE OFFICER CANDIDATE PERSONAL COMMITMENT FORM

State FFA officers are required to perform a demanding and exciting schedule. It is necessary that those who aspire to become officers are highly qualified, able and willing to perform. Please read the following personal commitment statement closely. When you are fully convinced that, if elected, you will, without any reservations, be fully able to carry out the role and responsibility of a state FFA officer, then sign and return with your State Officer application.

If elected to State FFA office, I will:

1. Be willing to commit the time required for State Officer activities.
2. Continue to become knowledgeable of and keep up-to-date on the industry of agriculture and career education in agriculture/agribusiness, FFA and current events.
3. Work through preparation and practice to continue to develop myself into an effective public speaker and workshop facilitator.
4. Regularly and on time write all letters, thank you notes, reports and other correspondence which are necessary and desirable.
5. Work constantly to improve my ability to carry on meaningful and enjoyable conversations with individuals of all ages and walks of life.
6. Accept and search out constructive criticism and evaluation of my total performance. Evaluate constantly my personality and attitudes making every effort to improve myself.
7. Serve as a member of the State FFA officer team, always maintaining a cooperative and supportive attitude.
8. Be willing to take and follow instructions as directed by those responsible for me.
9. Maintain and protect my health.
10. Follow the State Officer Code of Ethics:
  - a. To forego all alcohol and tobacco while involved in official or unofficial FFA activities and to avoid places or activities which in anyway would raise questions as to my moral character or conduct.
  - b. To project a positive image on any personal websites or blogs, including Facebook and MySpace. The following guidelines will be followed:
    - Pictures—all posted pictures are appropriate, promoting positive morals and behaviors.
    - Groups—any groups in which you participate should reflect a positive purpose.
    - Profiles—all interests, hobbies, etc are appropriate.
  - c. To behave in a manner which conveys and commands respect without any air of superiority.
  - d. To use wholesome language in all speeches and informal conversations and to maintain proper dress and grooming for all occasions.
  - e. To treat all team members with respect, acceptance and understanding.
  - f. To treat all FFA members equally and to avoid participation in any conversations which belittle or downgrade FFA members, fellow officers and adults.
11. Abide by all rules outlined in the Iowa FFA Association Policy for State Officers.

I have read and understand the above points. If elected to State Office, I will carry out my responsibilities in accordance with these statements and understand that I may be removed from office at any time by the State FFA Executive Committee if I do not adhere to these established standards for State Officers.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Applicant's Signature

**THIS FORM MUST BE ATTACHED TO THE STATE OFFICER APPLICATION.**

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## Policy for State Officers

In order that there are no misunderstandings, the Iowa FFA Association would like each state officer candidate and his/her parents to read and agree to the following association policies. All policies will be strictly enforced.

The following are offenses that **will cause dismissal** from State FFA Office:

- A. Any use or possession of alcohol (including beer and wine), including making alcohol available to others, while involved in official or unofficial FFA activities from day of election to office until installation of successor in office. This includes domestic and international travel and events.
- B. Any illegal use or possession of alcohol (including beer and wine) at all times from election until installation of successor in office.
- C. Any use and/ or supply of controlled substances (drugs), not under direction of a physician. In addition, any use of tobacco or tobacco related products is prohibited.
- D. Participation in any illicit or promiscuous acts.
- E. Commission of any felony against the laws of State or Nation.
- F. Other violations of codes of ethics and responsible behavior so identified that may be acted upon by the State FFA Board of Directors.

The above apply to any FFA activity (official or unofficial) or membership involvement by the State FFA Officers, individually or as a group.

If any of the above violations occur, the state officer or officers will be asked to appear before the entire State FFA Board of Directors to give a complete explanation of the incident which occurred. The State FFA Board of Directors will then rule on a dismissal of the officer or officers involved.

I certify that I have reviewed and understand the Iowa FFA Policy concerning behavior of officers of the State FFA Student Organization.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of State Officer Candidate

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Parent/Guardian

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**The State FFA Officer Application is  
due postmarked on or before February 15, 2010, to:**

**Alan Spencer  
Iowa Department of Education  
400 E. 14<sup>th</sup> Street  
Grimes State Office Building  
Des Moines, IA 50319-0166**