

**New York Association of FFA
National Officer Candidate Commitment Form**

Each year, the National FFA Organization selects six student members to represent the organization as a National FFA Officer. New York FFA selects one member each year to represent our state in this process. Below are the expectations, responsibilities and the commitments that National FFA and the New York Association of FFA request the officer candidates to agree to.

National FFA Expectations and Responsibilities for National FFA Officers:

Throughout the year, these national officers wear a variety of hats. National officers are elected officials expected to represent the student membership during meetings with the board of directors. They teach various leadership skills to state FFA officers and chapter members through individual workshops or as facilitators of larger-scale National FFA leadership conferences. They are motivational speakers who inspire FFA members. They are communicators and public relations specialists for FFA, building positive relationships across the country. They are teammates to each other and to FFA staff. They are learners, eager to grow and fulfill their responsibilities. The primary responsibility of a national officer is to serve. When you become a national officer, you agree to dedicate one year of your life to service with the organization. Your year of service as a national officer is one of profound growth—you will change in ways you never imagined. This may be the greatest personal benefit of serving as a national officer, along with knowing that you alone make a positive difference in the lives of thousands of FFA members, advisors, partners, state leaders and others. If you are elected to serve the organization as a national officer, a great deal will be expected of you. A national officer's schedule resembles that of a corporate CEO, traveling more than 100,000 miles and meeting thousands of new people— maybe even the president of the United States. Many people—including state and national FFA staff and, most of all FFA members—will require your time and talents. There will be little time left to call your own. Midnight bedtimes and early mornings become a part of your everyday life. It will be a challenging year full of joys and discomforts—with the joys far outweighing the discomforts. Decide now if you are up for this challenge. If you would rather live the life of a college student— follow your own schedule, see your friends and watch television—national office is not going to be a good fit for you.

National Officer Commitment:

Being elected to national office is making a commitment to service that is unique to most student organizations. In addition to serving and representing more than 750,000 FFA members, you will represent the image and direction of the National FFA Organization to teachers, state staff, teacher educators, agriculture executives, government leaders, the media and the general public. You will also be a teammate to five other officers and a co-worker to more than 100 national FFA staff.

The following items are commitments required of all National FFA Officers.

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 year of service to 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 National FFA Officers and state and national FFA programs.
7. Maintain and protect one's health.
8. Regularly, and on time, write all letters, thank-you notes, emails and other correspondence, which are necessary and desirable.
9. Accept and search out constructive criticism and evaluation of total performance.
10. Through preparation and practice, develop into an effective public speaker and project a desirable image of FFA at all times.
11. Commit the entire year to national officer activities.
12. Travel while serving the National FFA Organization.
13. Consider FFA officer activities to be primary responsibility.
14. Strive to improve ability to carry on meaningful and enjoyable conversations with individuals of all ages and walks of life.
15. Treat all FFA members equally by not favoring one over another.
16. Conduct oneself in a manner that commands respect without any display of superiority.

17. Maintain dignity while being personable, concerned and interested in contacts with others. Periodically evaluate personality and attitudes making every effort to improve.
18. Serve as a member of the team, always maintaining a cooperative attitude.
19. Work in harmony with fellow FFA officers, and not knowingly engage in conversations detrimental to other FFA members, officers and adults.
20. Become knowledgeable of agriculture, of education in agriculture/agribusiness and of FFA.
21. Keep up to date on current events.

New York Association of FFA Expectations and Responsibilities the National Officer Candidate:

The New York Association of FFA National Officer Candidate is required to train and perform on a vigorous and continuous basis. It is necessary, therefore, that those who aspire to become the National Officer Candidate are highly qualified, able and willing to perform at a high level.

The New York Association of FFA expects the National Officer Candidate to adhere to the expectations outlined by National FFA along with the expectations outlined below:

1. Be an active member of the New York Association of FFA.
2. Have attained the American Degree by the national convention in which they would be elected.
3. Be in a position to devote the necessary time required to carry out the training requirements as developed by the New York FFA Director.
4. Be in good academic standing (75% or better) and able to maintain scholastic responsibilities while balancing the time commitment of a National Officer Candidate. National Officer Candidates can decide to take time off from their post-secondary education during this period.
5. Project a desirable image of New York Agricultural Education and FFA at all times (24 hours a day, 7 days a week until the end of the selection process at National FFA Convention or until the end of their National Officer term).
6. Act as a representative of New York Agricultural Education and FFA that holds true to the standards and best interest of our organization.
7. Accept and seek out constructive criticism and evaluation of my total performance during the training period.
8. Continuously evaluate candidate's personality and attitude and make every effort to improve themselves and grow as a leader.
9. Be willing to take and follow instructions as directed by the New York FFA Director while representing New York FFA. Work with New York FFA Director to develop a training program that will allow the candidate to be successful.
10. Contact the State FFA Director on a regular basis to communicate obstacles or challenges that may inhibit the candidate's ability to perform or train as the National Officer Candidate.
11. Follow the FFA Code of Ethics:
 - a. To abstain from the use of all alcohol, illegal drugs, controlled substances, and tobacco/e-cigarette products throughout my year of service – regardless of my age.
 - b. To treat all FFA members equally by not favoring one over another to eliminate any bias and any preferential treatment, including close friendships, personal relationships, and family members.
 - c. There is no tolerance for harassment, bullying (including cyber bullying), and discrimination in any form.
 - d. To behave in a manner that conveys and commands respect without an air of superiority.
 - e. To maintain dignity while being personable, concerned and interested in my fellow members.
 - f. To avoid places or activities that in any way would raise questions as to my moral character or conduct.
 - g. To consider personal relationships as secondary to National Officer Candidate responsibilities when performing FFA activities or functions.
 - h. To use wholesome, appropriate, non-discriminatory, non-suggestive pictures, songs, language when posting to social media. Be mindful and proactive about promoting your personal (current and past) and professional image in electronic communication, social media, casual activities and formal FFA events.
 - i. To use wholesome, inclusive, and positive language in all speeches, formal and informal writing/social media posts, and informal conversations. All conversations and interactions with FFA members, teachers, state staff and public will remain professional at all times.
 - j. To avoid participation in and actively discourage any conversations which belittle or downgrade fellow FFA members, officers or teachers at all times.
 - k. To be well-groomed, practice personal hygiene and maintain proper dress for all occasions.

12. A training schedule will be developed after the candidate is selected and agreed upon by both the candidate and the New York FFA Director that will include the following events and activities (Dates will vary based on the year, but happen during the months listed next to each event/activity):

- a. New York State FFA Convention -May
- b. FFA Summer Camp-July
- c. National Training-September
- d. National FFA Convention-October
- e. Regional Alumni Conference-Depends on which one the candidate chooses to go to.
- f. State Officer Tour-September/October
- g. School Visits-March-June
- h. Meeting with Stakeholders-Throughout training
- i. Training and Preparation Time with New York FFA Director-Throughout training

New York Association of FFA will provide the following during National Officer Candidate Training:

- 1. National Officer Candidate FFA Jacket and Polo
- 2. Transportation, registration and lodging to the National FFA Convention that the candidate will participate in the selection process
- 3. Transportation and lodging to one National Officer Candidate training selected by the New York FFA Director
- 4. Lodging, meals and registration for the New York State FFA Convention
- 5. Lodging, meals and transportation during State Officer Tour
- 6. Training materials (books, workshop supplies, etc.)
- 7. All expenses must be submitted on the NYS FFA travel reimbursement form with prior approval by the NY FFA Director

I have read, studied and understand the intent and spirit of the items listed above. I have also read and understand the job description, Board of Directors Policies, National FFA Center Policies and required competencies in Section 1 of the Selection Process Handbook. As the New York Association of FFA National Officer Candidate, I commit to following the rules and procedures outlined. I recognize that breaking policies or these rules may result in limitations being set on my roles as a National Officer Candidate, suspension by the New York FFA Director/Advisor and/or the possible removal from this position by the New York FFA Governing Board.

New York National Officer Candidate Signature: _____

Printed Name: _____

Date: _____

New York FFA Director Signature: _____

Printed Name: _____

Date: _____