

Career Development Events

The Mt. Baker FFA participates in several career development events, formerly known as contests.

- **Agriculture Mechanics:** a difficult contest that covers broad areas each year and students must gain knowledge and skills in 7 practicums in areas such as electrical, electric motors, electric motor controls, sprayer calibration, welding, concrete, surveying, small gas engines, building construction, hydraulics, environmental sciences, farm implements, tractors, and more. (Team/Rightmire) [VIDEO](#)
- **Creed:** this contest is for first year FFA members. Students memorize the 5 paragraph FFA creed and answer a question regarding the creed. This is an excellent beginning leadership contest that teaches students stage presence, effective use of hand gestures, and public speaking skills. (Individual/Lenssen)
- **Employment Skills:** this is the first year for this contest. Students submit resume, cover letter, and application. Students are interviewed by a panel and scored on their responses. (Individual/Lenssen)
- **Extemporaneous Speaking:** Students choose from 4 general topic areas and choose from 30 different topics to prepare an impromptu speech on an agricultural issue. (Individual/Lenssen)
- **Forestry:** students learn about forest management. Skills include tree and tool identification, chainsaw troubleshooting, slope determination, map reading, legal land descriptions, timber cruising, timber stand improvement, forestry knowledge test, present a forestry issue, and orienteering. This contest occurs in the spring with trips to Wenatchee and the State Forestry contest held in Grays Harbor area(even years) and Colville/Chewelah (odd years). (Team/Rightmire) [VIDEO](#)
- **Natural Resources:** identify wildlife, equipment, native/invasive species, general knowledge test. Practicum in Data interpretation, water analysis, soil profile, GPS location, and waste management. Team activity is announced early in areas of soils, water, ecosystems, and waste management. (Team/Rightmire)
- **Parliamentary Procedure:** students learn how to debate, think on their feet, run a meeting, and parliamentary motions. This is a 6 member team event. This is the closest thing to a debate team that Mount Baker High School has to offer. (Team/Rightmire) [VIDEO](#)
- **Prepared Public Speaking:** students choose and write a speech on an agriculturally related issue or topic and present a 6-8 minute speech. (Individual/Rightmire or Whitcomb)
- **Veterinary Science:** students have to id numerous dogs, cats, small mammals, birds, livestock, veterinary instruments, and parasites. Students also compete in 4 handling clinicals that are commonly done in the veterinary clinic. Students also take a comprehensive knowledge test and write an essay. Team activity is on a current veterinary topic.

To get involved in a career development event, start early. Some CDE's start in October, others start in November, December, and January. This is the easiest way to learn about a contest and by the time you are a junior or senior, your experience gives you a definite advantage. CDE practices are held the same day before or after school until 4:30 or 5:00 pm. Some you have to qualify to compete at the state level, others you do not. If you would like to participate in one of these excellent career development events, sign up at a meeting, sign up on the window or wall in Mr. Rightmire's or Mrs. Lenssen's room or talk to an advisor. All of these contests require a commitment to practice whether it is in the morning or afterschool. If any of these sound interesting please let your advisors know!! This is the most rewarding and educational aspect of our program and last year every team made the state finals!!!! The state winning team/individual gets a trip to compete at Nationals.