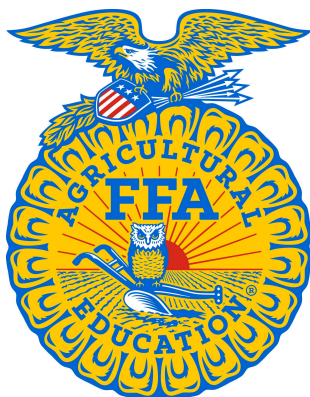


State Officer Election Process Timeline

- February 18, 2023- Officer Candidate & Parent Orientation – Illinois FFA Center, Springfield
- **March 1, 2023- Candidate Applications & Resumes Due to Illinois FFA Center**
- March 15, 2023 - Selection Committee Application due to Illinois FFA Center
- March 16, 2023 - Selection Committee Members Identified (not announced)
- **April 1, 2023 - Round 1 of Selection Committee Process - including:**
 - 1. Test
 - 2. Written activity
 - 3. Prepared Speech submitted electronically
 - 4. Candidate Poster submitted in the form of a pdf
- **April 15, 2023 - Round 2 of Selection Committee Process - including:**
 - 1. General Interview
 - 2. Facilitation
 - 3. Impromptu
 - 4. Group Activity
 - Location - Springfield, IL
- **April 15, 2023 - All Candidates will be emailed the results**
- May 1, 2023 - Candidates Listed on www.ilaged.org
- **June 13 - 15, 2023 - State FFA Convention & Elections, Springfield, IL**



State Officer Candidate Application

In order to serve as a State FFA Officer for the Illinois Association FFA:

- 1) The candidate must be an active member in good standing.
- 2) The candidate must have or will be receiving the State FFA Degree at the convention at which they are a candidate.
- 3) The candidate must meet the requirements for active membership during the time that he or she serves as a state officer. (This means the candidate must run for state office no later than the 3rd national convention following graduation from high school. Active membership terminates on November 30, following the 4th national convention after graduating from high school.)
- 4) In addition to the preceding requirements, all candidates must be in compliance with Illinois and National FFA Constitutional requirements.

All candidates for state office, not currently serving on the State Officer Team, are responsible for their own housing costs at the State FFA Convention. All newly elected state officers must remain in Springfield for orientation meetings. Food and hotel expenses for the newly elected officers will be assumed by the Illinois Association FFA beginning Thursday noon, the last day of the convention. Their travel home will be paid for by the FFA.

State FFA Officer candidates must submit the online application and email their resume to mbunselmeyer@illinoisffa.org on or before March 1, 2023.

*******BEFORE starting your application please answer the following questions on a separate document, as once you open the application it must be completed while open, you CANNOT save and come back to complete the application once opened.**

1. Provide a detailed description of your SAE(s)
2. Describe one MAJOR contribution you made while serving as a FFA Officer.
3. Describe one MAJOR contribution you made to FFA other than serving as a FFA Officer.
4. Describe how FFA Awards and recognitions helped improve you as an individual.
5. Describe your involvement in one MAJOR Non-FFA activity that improved your school/community.
6. Please write your "Why I Want to be a State FFA Officer" speech. This speech should be a three to five minute speech.

STATE FFA OFFICER QUALIFICATIONS AND PREREQUISITES

State FFA officers are required to perform on a very vigorous and continuous basis. Therefore, it is necessary that those who aspire to become officers are highly qualified, able and willing to perform.

Please read and study the major qualifications and prerequisites very 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 bring one copy of the State Officer Commitment Form to the Candidate Interviews in April 2022.

ROLE OF THE STATE OFFICERS

In order for present and future members of the state officer team, as well as agriculture instructors and the membership at large, to have an understanding of the state officers' role, the following major areas of responsibility are assumed by all elected state officers:

1. The state officer shall be a member of the student board of officers which fulfills the specified functions of governance of the Illinois Association FFA.
2. The state officer shall execute the State FFA Program of Activities and shall assist the chapters in the execution of their program of activities.
3. The state officer shall be a disseminator of specific agricultural education and FFA information to the membership.
4. The state officer motivates, inspires, and encourages FFA members to participate in agricultural education and FFA programs. They assist members in their advancement of agricultural knowledge and development of leadership abilities.
5. The state officer shall maintain positive relationships with members, agribusiness organizations, educational organizations, personnel within the agribusiness sector, the public, and others interested in agricultural education.
6. The state officer shall project a positive image as a leader among American youth representing those qualities members and society accept as a lifestyle role model.

AS A CANDIDATE FOR STATE OFFICE, I WILL:

1. Agree to arrange my schedule to arrive in and remain in Springfield according to recommendations.
2. Comply with all instructions of the nominating committee including, but not limited to, being available to the interview committee as directed; participate in all facets of the state officer selection--election process, and be prompt in all aspects of the procedure.

The election process shall be:

- Candidates submit a completed application, a signed "Commitment and Intent to Run" form, a resume' and the \$40.00 application fee.
- All Candidates will take a written exam, perform a written exercise (e.g. thank you note, request for a meeting) and go through a series of interviews (General Interview – Q & A; Prepared Speech – sample of what could be used; Impromptu Scenario; present the a Facilitation exercise); and participate in a team activity.
- The top ten individuals, based on the total of their scores will advance to the elections at the convention June 15, 2023.
- All candidates participating in the interviews will be emailed at a designated time the evening of the interviewing day notifying them of their results, as well as a written notification will be sent after the event.
- During their stage appearances at convention the top ten candidates are introduced, posed an impromptu question for a response and present a three-minute speech to begin their election process.

Ideally, each of the interview committees will be composed of the following individuals:

3 - FFA members (current Sophomore, Junior or Senior in High School or Freshman in College)

1 - FFA Board of Directors adult member

And 3 individuals from 4 of the following categories: University or Community College Representative, Corporate Representative, Past State Officer and/or Media Representative

General Assurances

- Every reasonable effort will be made to provide equal representation on each committee
- Any individual with close personal or professional ties to any candidate will be excluded from the committee process.
- Individuals serving as a University, Community College, Corporate, Past Officer or Media shall not serve more often than one out of two years.

Candidate Application Checklist

DUE March 1, 2023:

Online Application

- Due on or before **March 1, 2023**.

Resume' (1 page)

- Sample Resume included
- **Requirements:** Candidate materials are limited to a resume' with a photograph included in the resume'. The resume is limited to an 8 1/2 x 11 inch pdf document. A 1/2 inch margin should be allowed on each side, as well as the top and bottom of the resume'. A photograph should be incorporated into the resume' as it will appear in the resume' booklet and black and white prints are the best. All resumes' should be ready to print when received by the Illinois FFA Center. The FFA staff will make no additions or corrections to any resume' at any time.
- Due on or before **March 1, 2023**.

DUE April 1, 2023:

Candidate Poster

- At this time, we are asking that ALL of you create your posters for final elections in a pdf format to be emailed to mbunselmeyer@illinoisffa.org. The Illinois FFA Center staff will provide poster feedback after the selection committee. **DO NOT** print the posters, simply create them and save as a pdf. If you are selected to advance to convention elections you will email your final poster copy after feedback back to mbunselmeyer@illinoisffa.org by May 1, 2023.
- Happy to answer ANY questions that you may have, there is an album on the Illinois Association FFA Facebook page that has old posters if you are looking for a reminder of what some have looked like in the past. It is the album and it is labeled: Illinois FFA State Officer Candidate posters over the years.

Prepared Speech

- You will be asked to provide a pdf of your written speech as well as the recorded Prepared Speech - the DUE Date is **April 1, 2023**.
- The focus of the speech for this year will be provided in a separate correspondence, 10-14 days prior to the due date.

Date April 1, 2023 - Must be completed on this date:

- Written Test - administered online
- Writing Activity Assigned administered online

Bring these materials to the selection interviews on April 15, 2023.

Application fee (\$40)

Commitment Form (1 page)

- Blank [Commitment Form](#) included.
 - **You MUST have the signed form with you.**

Major State FFA Officer Candidate Commitment Form & Intent to Run

Being elected to state FFA office is making a commitment to service that is unique to most student organizations. In addition to serving and representing more than 37,000 FFA members, you will represent the image and direction of the Illinois Association FFA to students, teachers, State Staff, National Staff, teacher educators, agriculture industry representatives, government leaders, the media and the general public. You will also be a teammate to twenty-nine other officers and a co-worker to the Illinois FFA Center staff.

The following items are commitments required of all state FFA officers.

1. Be dedicated and committed to FFA and the total program of education in agriculture/agribusiness.
2. Be knowledgeable of agriculture, education in agriculture/agribusiness and of FFA.
3. Keep myself up to date on current events.
4. Through preparation and practice, develop myself into an effective public speaker.
5. Strive 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.
7. Project a desirable image of the FFA at all times in my personal and professional activities.
8. Regularly and promptly write all letters, thank-you notes, e-mails and other correspondence, which are necessary and desirable.
9. Travel as assigned while serving the Illinois Association FFA, with conscious attention to my safety and that of others.
10. Maintain and protect my health.
11. Forego all alcohol, tobacco and illegal substances at all times during my year of service to the FFA.
12. Maintain my dignity, while being personable, concerned and interested, in my personal and professional contacts with others.
13. Periodically evaluate my personality and attitudes making every effort to improve myself.
14. Abstain from places or activities that would raise questions as to one's moral character or conduct.
15. Consider FFA officer activities to be my primary responsibility and commit the entire year to state officer activities.
16. Use wholesome and appropriate language in all speeches and informal conversations.
17. Maintain proper dress and good grooming for all occasions.
18. Work in harmony with fellow FFA officers, serving as a member of the team, always maintaining a cooperative attitude.
19. Refrain from conversations detrimental to other FFA members, my fellow officers, staff and adults.
20. Refrain from making any unwelcome sexual advance and participating in verbal or physical conduct or gestures of a sexual nature that might reasonably be expected or perceived to cause another person to take offense or suffer humiliation.
21. Refrain from using my status as an officer of the Illinois Association FFA to improperly influence the actions of my subordinates within the organization in any way.
22. Treat all FFA members equally by not favoring one over another due to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, ancestry, age, order of protection status, marital status, disability, and/or sexual orientation including gender identity.
23. Conduct myself in a manner which commands respect without any display of superiority.
24. Be willing to take and follow instructions as directed by those responsible for State Officers and State and National FFA programs.

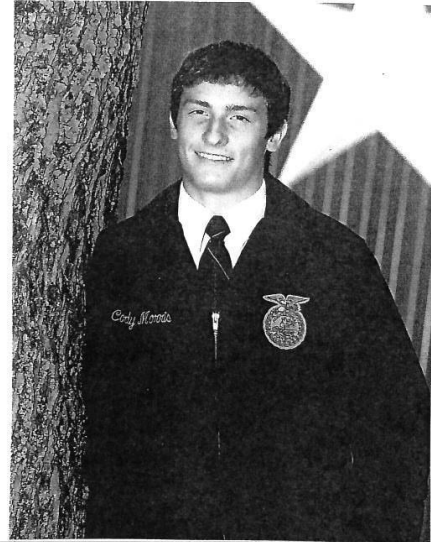
I have read and understood the intent of the items listed above. If elected to office I commit to following the rules and procedures outlined. I recognize that breaking policies or these rules may result in limitations being set on my roles as an Illinois State FFA Officer and/or the possible removal from office by the Illinois FFA Board of Directors.

_____ Candidate's Signature	Date	_____
_____ Parent's Signature	Date	_____
_____ Advisor's Signature	Date	_____



Cody Morris

Candidate for
2014-2015
Illinois FFA President



FFA Activities

2013-2014 - Section 20 FFA President
 2013-2014 - District IV FFA Director
 2013 - National FFA Convention Delegate
 2013 - FFA Leadership Camp Group Leader
 2013 - District IV FFA Star Farmer
 2012 and 2013 - State Top 10 Prepared
 Public Speaking Finalist
 2013 - WIXY Classic FFA All-Star
 2012 and 2013 - Sheep Proficiency Awards
 State Top 5 Finalist
 2012-2013 - Section 20 FFA Treasurer
 2013 - State FFA Degree Recipient
 2012-2013 - Mattoon FFA Chapter President
 2011-2012 - Mattoon FFA Chapter Treasurer
 2010-2011 - Mattoon FFA Chapter Reporter
 2010-2013 - Parliamentary Procedure CDE

School & Community Activities

2013-2014 - Lake Land College
 Student Ambassador
 2013-2014 - Lake Land College
 Livestock Judging Team Member
 2013-2014 - PAS Member
 2011-2013 - Mattoon High School National
 Honor Society Member
 2009-2013 - Mattoon Football Team Captain
 2011-2013 - MHS Scholar Athlete
 2013-2014 - National Junior Corriedale
 Association President
 2003-Present - Coles County 4-H Member
 2005-Present - Illinois Junior Angus
 Association Member
 2010-2014 - Mattoon Rotary Club
 Student of the Month

Floor Member
 2011 - 212 Conference Attendee
 2012 and 2013 - STAR Conference Participant
 Mattoon FFA Chapter
 Greenhand Farmer
 2009-2013 - Section 20 FFA Leadership
 Training School

2003-Present - First Baptist Church Member
 2010-2013 - Big Brother Big Sister
 Auction Clerk
 2013 - Mike James Memorial Football
 Scholarship
 Showmanship Participant
 2010 - Mattoon Basketball Team Member

My Fellow Illinois FFA Members,

If given the opportunity to serve as your 2014-2015 State FFA President I will strive to give back to this student organization through leadership, hard work and dedication. I will use these skills to serve the members and promote FFA and Agriculture Education at the local, state, and national level. My goal is to provide leadership to all members, set an example for future members, and direct this organization down the most successful path possible.

Sincerely, *Cody Morris*