

FFA CREED PUBLIC SPEAKING

Individual Event

IMPORTANT NOTE

Please thoroughly read the General CDE Rules Section at the beginning of this handbook for complete rules and procedures that are relevant to State FFA Leadership Development Events.

I. PURPOSE

The FFA Creed outlines the organization's beliefs regarding the industry of agriculture, FFA membership and the value of citizenship and patriotism. The Creed is recited by FFA members as part of the requirements to earn the Greenhand FFA Degree. The purpose of the Creed speaking career development event is to develop the public speaking abilities of ninth grade FFA members as well as develop their self-confidence and contribute to their advancement in the FFA degree program.

II. OBJECTIVES

1. Develop confidence and practice great communication skills.
2. Develop an appreciation for the rich heritage and traditions of the FFA.
3. Meet a requirement towards the attainment of the Greenhand FFA Degree.

III. EVENT RULES

1. This division is for freshman members only. First-year members competing in this division must be in the ninth grade (sophomores who are first-year members are not eligible.)
2. The event is open to freshman students who are regularly enrolled in high school agricultural education and who are active members of FFA chapters in good standing with the state association and national organization. Dual members speaking in 4-H public speaking are ineligible to speak in FFA public speaking during the same school year.
3. Members will present the FFA Creed from the current year's Official FFA Manual.
4. Each participant must recite the FFA Creed from memory. Each participant shall begin the presentation by stating, "The FFA Creed by E.M. Tiffany." Each participant shall end the presentation with the statement ". . . that inspiring task. Thank you." Additional introductory or concluding remarks may result in disqualification.
5. The event is structured in four levels of advanced participation: Regional, Area, State, and National Qualifying. The state event will be limited to participation by two students in each division who have been determined winners in an area event.
6. A member that wins a state speaking division is ineligible to speak again in that division.
7. Any FFA Creed participant's failure to comply with any of the items of Official FFA

Dress will receive a 10-point deduction. The Oklahoma FFA Constitution defines Official FFA Dress:

- Official FFA dress for FFA members is an official FFA jacket zipped to the top. Black slacks and black socks or black skirt and black nylons. White collared blouse or white collared shirt. Official FFA tie or official FFA scarf. Black dress shoes with closed heel and toe. **Note:** Official garb of recognized religions may be worn with Official Dress. See [okffa.org /About Us /Official Dress Standards](http://okffa.org/About%20Us/Official%20Dress%20Standards) for additional recommendations.

8. The use of props in FFA public speaking is not acceptable. Any member violating this rule will automatically be disqualified.

IV. EVENT FORMAT

A. Team Make-Up

Individual

B. Questions

1. Immediately following reciting the FFA Creed, participants will be allowed three minutes additional time to be asked questions from the judges that pertain to the FFA Creed.
2. In the FFA Creed division, because of the likelihood of the same questions being asked to each participant, it is required that any FFA member, parent or guest may enter the contest room at any time between participants speaking; however, once they have entered the room, they must stay in the room until the completion of the event.

C. Scoring

Voice Quality.....	10
Personal Appearance.....	10
Stage Presence.....	10
Power of Expression.....	25
General Effect.....	20
Response to Questions....	25
Total Points.....	100
pts	

D. Judging

1. It is recommended that three competent and impartial persons judge each division. A timekeeper will be designated to record the questioning time used by each participant.
2. Judges should be seated in different sections of the room in which the event is held. Each judge will score each participant based on the criteria of the judge's score sheet provided.
3. Following the presentation, each judge will formulate and ask questions. Questions will

pertain directly to the FFA Creed. Two part questions should be avoided. The full three minutes allotted for questions should be used. Judges will score each participant on the ability to answer all questions asked by all judges.

4. No tape recorders or video machines will be allowed in the contest room.
5. When all participants have finished speaking, each judge will total the score for each participant. On the bottom line of the score sheet, each judge will rank each participant in numerical order based on the final score. Judges will complete the judging process without consultation with each other.
6. Each judge's score sheet will be submitted to the designated event superintendent to determine the final ranking of participants. The lowest total of the final ranking is the winner. In the event two judges place a participant first, he/she is automatically first. In the event of a tie in the final ranking, the participant that two judges place highest will be determined the winner.
7. No props are to be used. Failure to comply will mean automatic disqualification of the participant.
8. Applause shall be withheld until all participants have spoken.

E. National Qualifying Rules

1. The state winner in the FFA Creed division at the State FFA Interscholastics in Stillwater will represent Oklahoma in the national event held during the National FFA Convention and Expo.
2. Any member who has represented Oklahoma in a national career development event or national awards area as a 4-H or FFA member is ineligible to participate again in the National Qualifying Event for that area as an FFA member.
3. A member can participate in only one national career development event in a given year. A member speaking in the state event in both prepared public speaking and the FFA Creed public speaking must declare in which division the speaker would represent Oklahoma in the national event in the event the speaker won both divisions.

F. Awards

The division winners at the OSU State FFA Interscholastics in Stillwater will receive all cash awards, plaques, and scholarships provided by sponsors for that division.

G. Resources

This list of resources is not intended to be all-inclusive. Other sources may be utilized, and teachers are encouraged to make use of the very best instructional materials available. The following list contains references that may prove helpful during event preparation.

1. Oklahoma Curriculum and Instructional Materials Center (CIMC), FFA Prepared Public Speaking DVD, catalog number AG7301DVD.
2. National FFA Core Catalog:
 - a. Figures of Speech DVD—<http://shop.ffa.org/figures-of-speech-dvd-p37895.aspx>
 - b. Great Speeches and Presentations—[http://shop.ffa.org/great-speeches- andpresentations-p37634.aspx](http://shop.ffa.org/great-speeches-andpresentations-p37634.aspx)
 - c. FFA Learn—2005 & 2006 CDE Q&A's—<https://ffa.learn.com/learncenter.asp>
3. The current year's Official FFA Manual.

H. Supplemental Materials and Forms

The FFA Creed

Judge's Score Sheet

The FFA Creed

by E.M. Tiffany

I believe in the future of agriculture, with a faith born not of words but of deeds—achievements won by the present and past generations of agriculturists; in the promise of better days through better ways, even as the better things we now enjoy have come to us from the struggles of former years.

I believe that to live and work on a good farm, or to be engaged in other agricultural pursuits, is pleasant as well as challenging; for I know the joys and discomforts of agricultural life and hold an inborn fondness for those associations which, even in hours of discouragement, I cannot deny.

I believe in leadership from ourselves and respect from others. I believe in my own ability to work efficiently and think clearly, with such knowledge and skill as I can secure, and in the ability of progressive agriculturists to serve our own and the public interest in producing and marketing the product of our toil.

I believe in less dependence on begging and more power in bargaining; in the life abundant and enough honest wealth to help make it so—for others as well as myself; in less need for charity and more of it when needed; in being happy myself and playing square with those whose happiness depends upon me.

I believe that American agriculture can and will hold true to the best traditions of our national life and that I can exert an influence in my home and community which will stand solid for my part in that inspiring task.

