

Myths and Facts

Myth: State officers are natural born leaders.

Fact: State officers are selected for their traits and abilities, but they undergo a dynamic leadership training process that enables the team to effectively lead the state association.

Myth: Only high school seniors are able to run for state office.

Fact: Any student who has or will graduate from high school prior to August 1st following the state FFA convention at which they are a candidate and has received their State FFA Degree or will receive the degree as a candidate is eligible to run. This includes high school seniors, college freshman and sophomores. Remember, members are able to maintain FFA membership for four National FFA Conventions following high school graduation. Each state officer candidate shall be an active FFA member and eligible to retain active membership in the organization until the member completes the term of office.

Myth: State officers must first be chapter and district officers.

Fact: While state officers must demonstrate leadership ability, they do not have to hold chapter or district offices prior to running for state office. In fact, there have been several state officers who never served as district officers.

Myth: Only students who plan to attend Kansas State University can run.

Fact: While most state officers choose to attend K-State, it is not a requirement.

Myth: Only students who plan to major in agriculture can run.

Fact: Students are not required to major in agriculture. While a strong knowledge of and passion for agriculture is essential for state officers, it is not a required major.

Myth: Serving as a state officer is expensive, as officers must pay for their expenses during the year.

Fact: There is some opportunity cost of serving as a state officer, as officers are discouraged from obtaining a part-time job during their year of service due to extensive time commitments. However, the Kansas FFA Association pays for most travel expenses incurred by state officers when travelling on official business for the association. Additionally, lodging and meals are covered on extended trips such as national convention and training conferences. Officers are reimbursed for workshop materials and dry-cleaning for their official dress. Also, they receive a \$500 scholarship to assist with college expenses if majoring in agriculture at Kansas State University. In addition, all officers will receive a \$500 scholarship from Midwest Ford Dealers at the beginning of the fall semester. Officers will also receive a \$1,000 scholarship following the completion of their service.

Myth: State officers have no time for school, work, etc.

Fact: State officers do have a full agenda, but they still lead lives outside of the FFA. Past state officers have managed a full-time academic schedule (averaging 12-15 hours per semester), and most have been active in other student organizations during their year of service. While some have managed to work part-time jobs, it can be difficult with the time commitment. The expectation is simply for state officers to make FFA a top priority during their year of service.