

Ceremonies

DISCOVERY FFA DEGREE CEREMONY

Secretary: “Mr./Mdm. President or President (Last Name), I have the applications for ____ (number) students enrolled in ____ (agricultural education, agriscience, agribusiness, horticulture, etc.) who are candidates for the Discovery FFA Degree.”

President: “Our constitution outlines minimum qualifications for this degree. We shall now determine if these candidates qualify. Mr./Mdm. Advisor or Advisor (Last Name), have all candidates paid full FFA dues at local, state and national levels?”

Advisor: “They have.”

President: “Have they each participated in at least one chapter activity outside of scheduled class time?”

Advisor: “They have.”

President: “Have these candidates met all other minimum qualifications of Article 6, Section B of the national constitution?”

Advisor: “They have.”

President: “The secretary will please read the names of the successful candidates.”

(**Secretary** reads the list of candidate names.)

President: “Will the officers take their places beside me?”

(After officers are stationed by the president.)

“Will the candidates please rise? Candidates, you are about to receive the Discovery FFA Degree in a national organization of members who will become the leaders in the broad industry of agriculture. Will you strive to continue development of your personal and professional skills through participation in the FFA? If so, answer ‘We will.’”

Candidates: “We will.”

Secretary: “I am proud to add these names to the list of our membership embarking on a journey of personal growth and premier leadership development which will lead them to career success in the broad field of agriculture.”

Advisor: “Today, you take the first step in an exciting journey which can provide you with experiences which will set a foundation for success that will carry throughout your life. I challenge you to grasp all the opportunities offered and wish you every success in that journey.”

President: “Fellow officers, join me in welcoming these recipients of the Discovery FFA Degree.”
(President leads applause and welcomes each candidate with a handshake. Other officers shake hands with the newly installed degree recipients as well.)

GREENHAND FFA DEGREE CEREMONY

Secretary: “Mr./Mdm. President or President (Last Name), I have the applications for ____ (number) students enrolled in ____ (agricultural education, agriscience, agribusiness, horticulture, etc.) who are candidates for the Greenhand FFA Degree.”

President: “Our constitution outlines minimum qualifications for this degree. We shall now determine if these candidates qualify. Mr./Mdm. Advisor or Advisor (Last Name), do all candidates have satisfactory plans for programs of supervised agricultural experience?”

Advisor: “They have.” (The advisor should give a brief summary statement regarding enrollment, production agriculture, ornamental horticulture, agribusiness, etc., including career plans and supervised agricultural experience programs. For example, number of students in production agriculture, number of students in horticulture, number of students in agribusiness.)

President: “Have these candidates met all other minimum qualifications of Article 6, Section C of the national constitution?”

Advisor: “They have.”

President: “The secretary will please read the names of the successful candidates.”

(Secretary does so.)

President: “Will the officers please take their places beside me?”

(After officers are stationed by president.)

“Will the candidates please rise? Candidates, you are about to receive the Greenhand FFA Degree in a national organization of members who expect to enter a career in the industry of agriculture. Will you strive to further develop your abilities through active participation in the FFA? If so, answer ‘We will.’”

Candidates: “We will.”

President: “The basic beliefs of FFA members are outlined in the FFA Creed, which will be presented by _____ (officer, member, Greenhand, etc.).”

(FFA Creed is presented.)

President: “I hope that you will always carry the spirit of the Creed in your hearts and the words in your memory.”

Sentinel: “Career development is a lifelong process. Your activities in this organization will help you acquire the ability to cooperate with others for the benefit of all. A good attitude and a respect for the rights of others are essential for success in life.”

Reporter: “The vast agricultural complex forms the foundation of our American economy. You have chosen well by your expression of interest in a future career in this, our nation’s largest field of endeavor.”

Treasurer: “By your enrollment in agricultural education, you have taken an important step toward becoming a useful citizen in our democracy. May you, like George Washington, use your talents and training for the betterment of yourselves and your fellow man.”

Secretary: “The FFA is a national organization of young men and women preparing for careers in agriculture. I am proud to add your name to the _____ (name of chapter) FFA Chapter, _____ (name of state) FFA Association and the national organization.”

Vice President: “Success in a career and in life is largely the result of a sound education and a willingness to work. Without labor, we accomplish little and, unless our labor is directed by intelligent thinking, we accomplish nothing.”

Advisor: “The pin worn by Greenhands is made of bronze. Because of its hardness and endurance, bronze has been used for ages by those who sought a better substitute for crude stone instruments. May those qualities of hardness and endurance carry you far in our organization.

CHAPTER FFA DEGREE CEREMONY

Secretary: “Mr./Mdm. President or President (Last Name), it is my privilege to announce that _____ (number) members are candidates for the Chapter FFA Degree.” (Reads their names.)

President: “Our constitution sets up minimum qualifications which must be met before members advance to a higher degree. The secretary will please read the section of our constitution which outlines the standards for this degree.”

Secretary: (Reads Article 6, Section D.) “To be eligible to receive the Chapter FFA Degree from the chapter, the member must meet the following minimum qualifications:

1. Must have received the Greenhand FFA Degree.
2. Must have satisfactorily completed the equivalent of at least 180 hours of systematic school instruction in agricultural education at or above the ninth-grade level, have in operation an approved supervised agricultural experience program and be enrolled in an agricultural education course.
3. Have participated in the planning and conducting of at least three official functions in the chapter Program of Activities.
4. Have earned and productively invested at least \$150 by the member’s own efforts or worked at least 45 hours in excess of scheduled class time, or a combination thereof, and have developed plans for continued growth and improvement in a supervised agricultural experience program.
5. Have effectively led a group discussion for 15 minutes.
6. Have demonstrated five procedures of parliamentary law.
7. Show progress toward individual achievement in the FFA award programs.
8. Have a satisfactory scholastic record.
9. Have participated in at least 10 hours of community service activities. These hours are in addition to and cannot be duplicated as paid or unpaid SAE hours.
10. Submit a written application for the Chapter FFA Degree.”

(Other requirements may be established by the chapter and/or the state FFA association.)

President: “Mr./Mdm. Advisor or Advisor (Last Name), have all candidates met or exceeded these standards?”

Advisor: “They have.”

President: “Will the candidates please rise, and will the officers take their positions for this ceremony?”

Sentinel: “Fellowship and brotherhood are desirable aspects of a full and satisfying life. Your many friends in the FFA share with you the satisfaction of your achievement. May you continue to advance in the FFA.”

Reporter: “We enjoy many benefits through the FFA. It is important that all of you inform others about this organization so that its influence can be a contributing factor in their lives. Let us work together to build a better America.”

Treasurer: “FFA members learn the importance of sound financial practices. The skills you are developing in keeping records and accounts will be valuable assets to you throughout life. May you use this training to support yourself, your family and worthy activities of your community.”

Secretary: “You have earned the highest FFA degree a chapter can bestow on its members. As secretary, it is my pleasure to inscribe your name in our permanent records. May you continue your individual growth and development in our organization.”

Vice President: “Planning and completing a task brings a certain satisfaction that is the reward of the industrious individual. Our forefathers worked hard to transform America from a wilderness to a great nation. Your attainment of this degree demonstrates your willingness to work. You have done well and have taken a major step toward fulfilling your goals in the FFA.”

Advisor: “Those who succeed best in life, regardless of occupation, know the means whereby the great problems may be solved. Ignorance leads to neglect, waste, want and poverty, while wisdom leads to industry, productivity and happiness. You have studied and learned in order to earn this degree. Every worthwhile recognition carries with it additional responsibilities. Your increased leadership ability should be reflected by your further involvement in the activities of our chapter.”

President: “The pin symbolizing the Chapter FFA Degree is made of silver. Just as there are metals more precious than silver, there are more precious laurels to be won in our organization. The golden charm of the State FFA Degree and the golden key of the American FFA Degree await those who earn them. It is our hope that you reach these higher goals in our organization. I am pleased to present each of you with the silver pin of the Chapter FFA Degree.”

(President presents pin to each candidate. Secretary reads each name as the pins are being presented.)
“Please be seated, and will the officers return to their stations?”

HONORARY DEGREE CEREMONY

President: “It is always an honor to recognize our valued FFA Alumni and Supporters with the Honorary FFA Degree. The purpose of this ceremony is to recognize, from time to time, the efforts of others made on our behalf. Mr./Mdm. Secretary or Secretary (Last Name), please read the section of the national constitution which provides for the Honorary FFA Degree.” (Reads Article VI, Section G.)

Secretary: “Honorary FFA Degree—farmers, school superintendents, principals, members of boards of education, chapter advisors, teachers, staff members in agricultural education, business people and others who are helping to advance agricultural education and the FFA and who have rendered outstanding service, may be elected to receive an honorary FFA degree by a majority vote of the members present at any regular meeting or convention.”

President: “Mr./Mdm. Secretary or Secretary (Last Name), will you introduce those who are to receive this honor?”

Secretary: “Mr./Mdm. President or President (Last Name), members and guests, I am pleased to read the following names:”

(Secretary reads the names of the recipient(s).)

President: “Will the officers take their places beside me? Will the ushers please present the candidates?”

(To explain why the honor is being conferred, the secretary gives a summary of what each candidate has done.)

Sentinel*: “I welcome you as friends of the FFA. It is my privilege as sentinel to extend to each of you the symbolic handclasp of friendship and brotherhood.”

Reporter*: “As reporter, I am pleased to inform you that the FFA is a national youth organization whose purpose is to develop agricultural leaders. Congratulations on this honor.”

Treasurer*: “Your contribution as a useful citizen in our democracy serves as an example for our members to follow. As treasurer, I thank you for your service to our organization.”

Secretary*: “The FFA needs counsel and guidance from recognized leaders. It is my pleasure as secretary to add your names to our roll of honorary FFA degree recipients.”

Vice President*: “As vice president, I thank you for all that you have provided to the FFA. I would inform you that our members learn to appreciate the dignity of labor. Without labor, neither knowledge nor wisdom can accomplish much.”

President: “On behalf of every member, I wish to say we are proud to have you as honorary FFA degree recipients. May this recognition prove valuable to all. I impress upon you that we look to you for counsel and guidance. It is because of the great respect we have for you that you have been elected to receive the honorary FFA degree. May we always cooperate for the benefit of all. I now confer upon you the honorary FFA degree and adult membership from the _____ FFA (chapter, association, etc.) and present you with this as recognition of this extreme honor.”