

**LPS Report
November 28-December 1, 2018**

**NAAE Convention
San Antonio, TX**

1. ffa.org Website

- a. All resources, educational materials, CDE/LDE handbooks, old exams, etc. are now IN-FRONT of the login!
- b. Roster, profile, and applications are behind the login
- c. Critical that chapter and state profiles are updated and accurate. National FFA is moving in a direction where this is the information that will populate and drive all systems.

2. Give the Gift of Blue

- a. Nominate or have students complete the application for free FFA jackets and scarf/tie for qualifying members. Advisor's approval required. <https://www.ffa.org/giveblue/>

3. Convention

- a. Record attendance – 69,944
- b. If you didn't judge or serve as a room host for proficiency awards, or judge Agriscience Fair, you missed a great opportunity for professional development to help your students.
- c. Blue Room – 90-minute TED Talk style sessions. Hope you and your students had a chance to take part. Now be looking for Blue Room 365 to integrate those lessons into your classroom during the school year.
- d. Team and individual photos have been sent out and are available at: <https://ffa.app.box.com/s/tatndh3hihfhvd4c93ym9lp3syzpp2um>
- e. 2025-2031 National Convention site location will be announced after December 10; finalists are Indianapolis and Atlanta
- f. Post-convention survey is open. Both positive feedback and constructive critique is needed and appreciated.

4. Agriscience Fair Program 2019 and Beyond

- a. Can reach out to National FFA to seek advice and recommendations on project category before launching project.
- b. To determine your project category, go to <https://form.jotform.com/81773636431157>
- c. National FFA will no longer reach out to state staff or the local teacher if items in the final submission are missing. Application will be considered incomplete.

5. Blue Room-Moving Forward

- a. In partnership with Microsoft, the National FFA Organization will award 50 FFA chapters with two Microsoft FarmBeats Student Kits designed to help students learn about precision agriculture and Internet of Things (IoT) technologies.
- b. Each kit includes preconfigured [Microsoft Azure](#) cloud services and a Raspberry Pi with soil moisture, light, ambient temperature, and humidity sensors to collect data, which can help students understand how to help improve productivity, increase yield, and save resources.
- c. Only 50 chapters will be selected, so make sure to [submit your application](#) before the January 2 deadline

6. Living to Serve Grants

- a. Grants now available in almost any conceivable service area
- b. Rolling grants up to \$400 reimbursable
- c. Semester long project grants, \$1,200
- d. Yearlong project grants, \$3,000
- e. Statewide service grants
<https://www.ffa.org/livingtoserve>

7. AgExplorer

- a. 255 unique agricultural careers all at www.agexplorer.com or www.ffa.org/agexplorer
- b. AgExplorer is for all students – login no longer required for any part of AgExplorer!

8. Scholarships

- a. New scholarship platform is live now
- b. Application 100% student driven
- c. Application hosted OUTSIDE of ffa.org
- d. Students will need their membership ID number from their ag teacher
- e. Students will create their own logins on the external site: <https://ffa.applyists.net/>
- f. No advisor recommendation needed anymore
- g. Advisor will have opportunity to verify application FFA and SAE accuracy
 - i. Advisors will have three-day window to verify. If ignored, application will automatically submit without advisor overview.
- h. Transcript required for academic verification
- i. Students can consent to FAFSA verification to show financial need
- j. Application closes 11:59pm EST February 6, 2019



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9. SAE Resources

- a. The Council has released very thorough new SAE resources for teachers and students. Well worth your time to check out
- b. Student guide:
<https://ffa.box.com/s/m572qkppzdb9ew04havv434k33pb9o>
- c. Teacher guide:
<https://ffa.box.com/s/dxdxhfv61xhpi22je9e0ljd7a6morr>

10. Foundation Programs

Local Engagement – find a full list of retail, grant, and sponsor support programs that provide money for your chapter at:

<https://www.ffa.org/localengagement>

11. New National FFA Alumni Benefits

Alumni members can now utilize Forever Blue Member Benefits. Discounts at thousands of restaurants, retailers, and travel at:

<https://nffabenefits.enjoymydeals.com/home>

Enter code 20157 plus the member's FFA ID number (found on the alumni roster)

12. Regional Alumni Development Conferences

December 6-7; College Station, Texas
February 8-9; Manhattan, Kansas
March 1-2; Baton Rouge, Louisiana
March 29-30; Prescott Valley, Arizona
May 17-18; Dover, New Hampshire
July 26-27; Northfield, Minnesota
August 9-10; Laramie, Wyoming
August 23-24; Bordentown, New Jersey
September 20-21; Pendleton, Oregon
September 27-28; Martin, Tennessee
November 15-16; Lexington, Kentucky

Find full information and registration at:

<https://www.ffa.org/alumni-and-supporters/events/>

13. National FFA Alumni Grants

- a. Legacy grants available to either create a new alumni chapter or improve an existing chapter
- b. Three opportunities to submit annually
- c. March 1, June 1, and September 3 all in 2019
- d. Very simple application:
<https://www.ffa.org/support/alumni/resources/grants-and-scholarships>

14. Raise Money for your Chapter

National FFA is partnering with We Fund Them. We Fund Them is a platform similar to Donors Choose with the added benefit of discounts and incentives for those that give. Get started at:

<https://wefundthem.com/users/sign-up>

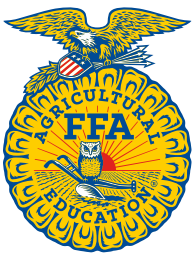
15. Tractor Supply Company Grants

- a. TSC grants will once again be available in 2019:
<https://www.ffa.org/grantsforgrowing>
- b. Application period is January 7-February 11
- c. Chapters are encouraged to engage with their local TSC during National FFA Week
- d. Grant funds are raised through customer donations during National FFA Week
- e. Any chapter can apply for a grant. Having a local TSC is not a requirement to apply

16. Proposed Constitutional Amendments

As part of the proposed change to the federal charter, the National FFA Organization constitution would be out-of-alignment with the charter should the revised language pass in Congress

- a. The National FFA Organization convened a nationwide taskforce to look at the entirety of the constitution to recommend changes related to the proposed charter revision and any potential changes that would better advance the organization
- b. Task force presented their recommendations to National FFA Board of Directors for final consideration
- c. NFFA BOD is recommending the following updates to the National FFA Constitution:
 - i. Change in number of national board members and make-up of the board. Moving from 9 to 11 positions. Allowing any state staff to serve (not just state supervisors). Adding a position from The Council
 - ii. Amending the way that some board members are seated. Removing this control from USDOE and placing it with the board itself as well as internalizing the way the national advisor is selected (currently selected by USDOE). Specifically, the national advisor will be selected via one of three options:
 - a. USDOE rep (Dr. Steve Brown) will continue to serve as board chair. Should Dr. Brown retire, USDOE will have opportunity to name his replacement meeting minimum experience qualifications in the ag ed profession



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- b. If USDOE rep lacks required background/experience, national advisor will be appointed by The Council (this would be their BOD position)
 - c. If The Council cannot name a national advisor, the BOD itself will name someone from their membership that meets the minimum qualifications that the USDOE rep is expected to meet.
 - iii. Changing the terms of service for board members. Currently board members come on at various times of the year. Moving to all new board members start in January.
 - iv. Clarification about standing committee rules and policies
 - v. Clarification about the physical location of the national headquarters office.
 - vi. Amending language to properly protect NFFA's fiscal receipts and records while ensuring transparency and accountability for stakeholders.
 - vii. Flexibility with state reporting procedures and deadlines
- Brooks, IN5-R
Cole, OK4-R
Comer, KY1-R
Courtney, CT2-D
Cramer, ND-R
Gianforte, MT-R
Grothman, WI6-R
Guthrie, KY2-R
Hartzler, MO4-R
Jenkins, KS2-R
Johnson, LA4-R
Johnson, OH6-R
Labrador, ID1-R
Langevin, RI2-D
Loebsack, IA2-D
Lofgren, CA19-D
Lucas, OK3-R
Lujan Grisham, NM1-D
MacArthur, NJ3-R
Maloney, NY18-D
Marshall, KS1-R
Meadows, NC11-R
Nolan, MN8-D
Pearce, NM2-R
Ross, FL15-R
Valadao, CA21-R
Westerman, AR4-R
Young, IA3-R

17. Proposed Charter Revision

A revised version of the National FFA Organization's federal charter has been introduced to both houses of Congress.

- a. It is the Board of Director's hope that the charter revision will pass before the 115th Congress adjourns in December or January.
- b. Find an updated FAQ site at:
<https://www.ffa.org/2018/04/25/frequently-asked-questions-national-ffa-charter-revision/>
- c. Senate Co-Sponsors
 - Coons, DE-D
 - Cortez Masto, NV-D
 - Donnelly, IN-D
 - Fischer, NE-R
 - Heinrich, NM-D
 - Heitkamp, ND-D
 - Hoeven, ND-D
 - Jones, AL-D
 - Lankford, OK-R
 - Rand, KY-R
 - Udall, NM-D
- d. House Co-Sponsors
 - Abraham, LA5-R
 - Aderholt, AL4-R
 - Barr, KY6-R
 - Bishop, UT1-R
 - Bradley, AL1-R
 - Brooks, AL5-R