

**Western Region LPS Report
January 4, 2019**

**IATA Mid-Winter
Boise, ID**

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. Agriscience Fair Program 2019 and Beyond

- a. Teachers can and should 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.

4. American FFA Degree Updates

Two changes for 2019:

- a. Star application is now an optional set of pages embedded in the American FFA Degree application. Only required for students that are seeking their states' star nomination.
- b. The application has been corrected to **not** allow both paid and unpaid hours to be entered on the same line for a placement SAE. Both types of hours are allowable but now require separate entries.

Reminders for 2019:

- c. Application automatically checks for necessary eligible membership. If member doesn't have enough membership, they can't submit the application. Critical to have consistent membership records.
- d. 100% electronic signatures. No hardcopy signature page. All signatures done via clicking on specific email link sent to each signer.
- e. Enforcement of community service standards that were announced in 2017 and enforced in 2018:
<https://ffa.box.com/s/wo71rluv9djbz4ctjxs3nqm1o4dvt6qj>

5. 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>

6. Proficiency Awards

Updated descriptor list. Please review to ensure that students are applying in the correct category:

<https://ffa.box.com/s/qwlyfuznsf1npw557rz9hub2tbpf9bk7>

7. Scholarships

New scholarship platform is live now

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

8. 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)

9. Tractor Supply Company Grants

TSC grants are again available in 2019:

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

- a. Application period is January 7-February 11
- b. Chapters are encouraged to engage with their local TSC during National FFA Week
- c. Grant funds are raised through customer donations during National FFA Week
- d. Any chapter can apply for a grant. Having a local TSC is not a requirement to apply



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10. Awards and Recognition – State Management

National FFA is modifying some of our awards process to better empower states to make award decisions that best suit their needs:

- a. State CDE/LDE 1st place plaques will not be provided by National FFA starting in 2019. Instead, National FFA will issue stipends to each state in an amount similar to what was expended on plaques in 2018.
- b. State award checks for proficiencies, speaking LDEs, and state stars will remain status quo in 2019. Starting in 2020, these checks will be lumped into a single state payment giving each state the liberty to issue awards as they see fit.
- c. National Chapter Award spurs and multi-year plaques – no change in 2019.
- d. Chapter level proficiency, speaking, and star medals – program will be discontinued at the end of 2019. This is the last year to request free chapter medals from National FFA.

11. 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>

12. SAE Resources

The Council has released very thorough new SAE resources for teachers and students. Well worth your time to check out

- a. Student guide:
<https://ffa.box.com/s/m572qkpzzbdb9ew04haovv434k33pb9o>
- b. Teacher guide:
<https://ffa.box.com/s/dxdxhfv61xhpi22je9e0ljd7a6morr>

13. Living to Serve Grants

Grants now available in almost any conceivable service area

- a. Rolling grants up to \$400 reimbursable
- b. Semester long project grants, \$1,200
- c. Yearlong project grants, \$3,000
- d. Statewide service grants
<https://www.ffa.org/livingtoserve>

14. AgExplorer

255 unique agricultural careers all at www.agexplorer.com or www.ffa.org/agexplorer
AgExplorer is for all students – no login required!

15. WLC

- a. Registration opens March 5th
- b. Nonrefundable \$50 fee immediately charged starting this year
- c. New cancellation schedule. Must cancel at least 60 days out for a full refund (minus \$50)
- d. National FFA is again prohibiting a small number of states from reserving all the spots in a given week.
- e. Prices and dates posted at:
<https://ffa.box.com/s/y7a1k3db9cxwwip8teo9dh9skjnskwue>

16. National FFA Alumni Development Conferences

Find full information and registration at:

- <https://www.ffa.org/alumni-and-supporters/events/>
- a. February 8-9; Manhattan, Kansas
 - b. March 1-2; Baton Rouge, Louisiana
 - c. March 29-30; Prescott Valley, Arizona
 - d. May 17-18; Dover, New Hampshire
 - e. July 26-27; Northfield, Minnesota
 - f. August 9-10; Laramie, Wyoming
 - g. August 23-24; Bordentown, New Jersey
 - h. September 20-21; Pendleton, Oregon
 - i. September 27-28; Martin, Tennessee
 - j. November 15-16; Lexington, Kentucky

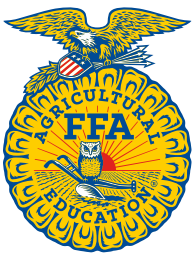
17. National FFA Alumni Grants

Legacy grants available to either create a new alumni chapter or improve an existing chapter

- a. Three opportunities to submit annually
- b. March 1, June 1, and September 3 all in 2019
- c. Very simple application:
<https://www.ffa.org/support/alumni/resources/grants-and-scholarships>

18. National FFA Week

February 16-23, 2019. Radio PSA, promotional materials, free downloads, and graphics available at:
<https://www.ffa.org/national-ffa-week/>



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19. 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 aged profession
 - 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
- d. Colleges and universities can continue to call themselves "_____ Collegiate FFA"
- e. Colleges and universities that don't convert will be dropped by National FFA