



Local Program Success

P 317-802-4347
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www.ffa.org

Western Region LPS Report

Mid-Winter 2017

1. CLASSROOM POSTER SET

Be looking for the January mailing of your classroom poster kit. In many places, it should have already been received.

2. LOCAL ENGAGEMENT AND DEALER PROGRAMS

Many of our sponsors are providing money to local chapters and students through grants, scholarships, and other means. Check out what is available online. Just click on the "Local Engagement" link under "Participate" on FFA.org or go directly at: <https://www.ffa.org/localengagement>

3. FREE CDE QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

2008-2015 CDE Questions and Answers are now available for free online and are no longer sold through Shop FFA. 2016 test questions will be available soon. Just look in the Resources section of your "My Member Links" on your Dashboard.

4. NATIONAL FFA CONVENTION

Website

Watch for important convention updates in April and on through the summer. National FFA is working to share important information as soon as possible when it affects ag teacher and student travel planning.

Registration

Important for advisors to fully read all online registration instructions and fully register/enter names prior to arriving in Indianapolis. Expect a similar system in 2017 as was seen in 2016.

Indianapolis Safety

Indianapolis, like any US metropolitan area, has its fair share of crime. Hosting the largest school based youth convention in the nation can amplify crime issues especially related to theft and vehicle break ins. National FFA is in regular communication with Indianapolis Metro Police and they understand the frustration experienced by our convention participants who are victims of a crime. Nevertheless, Indy Metro Police and the National FFA are asking all convention goers to be extra vigilant about leaving valuables in plain sight in vehicles and remembering to lock vehicles (including busses).

5. CHAPTER TEE CONTEST

The Chapter T-shirt Contest is now open for submissions. Consider having your creative kids submit a T-shirt design for your chapter. Winning chapters receive 50% of the profits for the first year. Past winners have received from \$2K to \$10K. Learn more at: <https://www.ffa.org/chapter-tee-contest>

6. FFA ALUMNI REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCES

The National FFA Alumni is forging its annual national alumni development conference and instead offering two free regional one-day conferences in 2017. In the west, the first event took place in early February in Orem, UT and the second event will be in San Luis Obispo, CA May 19-20.

7. OPENING CEREMONIES

Following the lead of previous changes to our opening ceremonies language, we are committed to the inclusion of all of our members. The Reporter's statement now reads, "As the flag covers the United States of America, so I strive to inform the people in order that every man, woman and child may know that the FFA is a national organization that reaches from the state of Alaska to **the Virgin Islands** and from the state of Maine to Hawaii."

8. CASE

CASE registration is currently open for summer 2017 professional development institutes. New this year in the west are institutes in Fairbanks, Alaska, Honolulu, Hawaii, and Reno, Nevada. These are in addition to ongoing institutes in Oregon and Washington. See: <http://www.case4learning.org/index.php/professional-development/case-institute/case-institute-offerings> for more details and to register.



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9. OFFICIAL DRESS

Official Dress for an FFA member includes:

- An official FFA jacket zipped to the top.
- Black slacks and black socks/nylons 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.

10. GRANTS FOR GROWING

Tractor Supply Company (TSC) has updated and enhanced their national giving program supporting local chapters. Chapters are encouraged to apply for grants through a new program running January 13 – February 13.

FFA chapters are encouraged to connect with their local TSC especially during National FFA Week February 17-26. During that time chapters are encouraged to volunteer a few hours and engage customers to help drive the sales of the paper emblems. Chapters are not required to participate in a store. All chapters are encouraged to apply even if there is no Tractor Supply store with in close proximity. Promotion of the event with social media, posters, broadcast and print may earn extra points toward the grant. Learn more and find the grant application at: <https://www.ffa.org/grantsforgrowing>

11. LIVING TO SERVE GRANT PROGRAM CHANGES

The Living to Serve Community Development Grant series will launch in January 2017 and applications for the 2017 -2018 school year will open in spring 2017. The FFA: Food For All and LTS: Environmental grants, were phased out in December 2016.

Living to Serve grants will grow to encompass more service ideas and concepts in 2017 (and beyond). National FFA will continue to support hunger and food security work and now will also fund a myriad of additional service projects that chapters already do or have considered. See the winter LPS newsletter for project examples and more information.

12. SMITH HUGHES AT 100

Find a way to recognize this milestone anniversary and a century of applied learning in your classroom. Download resources and learn more at: <https://sites.google.com/a/ncsu.edu/smith-hughes-act/>. Also find related history at: <https://sites.google.com/a/ncsu.edu/ffa-history-central/home> and view/download the Smith Hughes centennial video at: <https://vimeo.com/184897168>

13. TEACHER AMBASSADORS

National FFA is engaging with 25 ag teachers from across the country as "teacher ambassadors". These ag ed professionals have received training related to National FFA's wealth of online resources and educational content. Look for ways to use a teacher ambassador in your next professional development event. Teacher ambassadors in the west include:

California - Amanda Samons, Willows; asamons@willowsunified.org

Idaho - Katie Cooper, Salmon; katie.cooper@salmon291.org

Montana - Brandon Braaten, Corvallis; brandonb@corvallis.k12.mt.us

Nevada - Michelle Burrows, Reno; mburrows@washoeschools.net

Oregon - Christina Lorenz, Amity; clorenz@perrydale.k12.or.us

Washington - Tamara Whitcomb, Deming; twhitcomb@mtbaker.wednet.edu

14. NATIONAL BUSINESS CARD TEMPLATE

Find a useable business card template with in the brand center. Ready to use in your desktop printer

15. MY JOURNEY

New content is updated monthly for students and advisors on the second Monday of the month. If you are looking for lesson plans to supplement what you are already teaching in the classroom, check out My Journey. Don't forget to have your students build a resume in the Resume Generator section. Get started at: <https://www.ffa.org/my-journey/instructor>