

Wisconsin Association of FFA

Wisconsin FFA Center, Inc., P.O. Box 110, Spencer, Wisconsin 54479

Dear Wisconsin FFA Advisor,

PLEASE READ FOR IMPORTANT DETAILS: This school year, your state FFA officer will be visiting your school to help promote FFA amongst your students and school administration. This is an opportunity for the state officer to meet with current members and those students who have not yet decided if FFA is for them. Many times, once a state officer visits a school, students gain that extra interest to become members. This can be a valuable recruitment tool for your chapter. We want to make sure that this visit is successful for you, your students and for the state officer.

We realize that many of you have had numerous state officers visit your school. However there are MANY of you who are new teachers or you haven't had a chapter visit since before COVID, so we ask that you help our state officers have a successful visit in your school. This list is to help make the visits even better and provide you and your students with a top-quality experience.

Here are suggestions for when the state officer comes to visit your school:

1. State Officers will set up a schedule for your chapter visit. This will be confirmed at the Fall Leadership Workshop and/or through an email with your state officer.

The officers will publish their chapter visit schedule online under their profile. Currently state officers are scheduling each chapter for a full day visit unless you have talked with them about something different. If you already know you will only need a state officer for a morning or afternoon presentation, please let them know so they can work this into their schedules. **All chapters are asked to have a visit even if it is just for an hour or two or at an event other than the chapter banquet.**

We would like the state officers to complete a **chapter visit in every school** AND we are flexible to meet the needs of chapters in case your visit would be more effective this Fall or during your second semester. If you need any special accommodations for your visit, please let the state officer know so they can schedule you for the most optimum visit time for your students.

2. When your state officer calls to confirm, please call them back as soon as possible. State officers need to know if everything is still set for the visit. **If anything would change in your school's schedule that would conflict with the scheduled visit, please contact the state officer immediately, so they know of the change.**

3. Provide the state officer with the necessary information about the visit so they can prepare the topics you would like them to cover. PLEASE COMPLETE THE PRE-CHAPTER VISIT FORM so the officers can prepare. **This form should be emailed directly to your state officer or given to your state officer at the Fall Leadership Workshop.** We will also fill these out during the advisor workshop if you haven't turned in a form before our meeting.

Consider some different options for how the visit can work...

- a. Have an assembly with your FFA members rather than a presentation during every class.
- b. Have a separate assembly with students who aren't FFA members but yet show interest in the organization, this way the officer can design a presentation for potential FFA members.
- c. If you are on block scheduling, consider what part of the block the state officer would participate in. Don't plan for a 90-minute presentation by just the state officer. Instead consider different components that could highlight FFA activities and leadership development throughout that time with the state officer presentation being a portion of that.

- d. Consider ways that the state officer can bring “leadership training” to your students and not always just talk about FFA. Many times this helps students realize the larger scope of what FFA can offer.
- e. Set up a meeting with chapter officers. This is valuable as state officers have great ideas for chapter officer training. Maybe set up a class period when the officer just works with chapter officers.
- f. Have the officer meet with your school administration, guidance counselors, etc. This is a great time for these people to see more products of our programs.
- g. Have the state officers meet with students in your program that would be potential state officer candidates. This is a great way to get questions answered and get a better understanding for the student of what is involved in serving as an officer.

4. Tell the officer what you want or don't want them to talk about. The officers have presentations ready for your classes, however if there are things you want or don't want, please let them know. Remember they are going to about 25 different schools all wanting something different. They are prepared to tailor your presentation, please tell them what you are looking for. **This is why the Pre-Chapter Visit Form is very important.**

5. Talk to the state officer about your classes and what to expect. Alert them about possible challenges or special situations, this will help the state officer be prepared and not be caught off guard. State Officers are learning about classroom management...you are their experts to help them in this area. We ask that you be there to coach them and help with classroom discipline. The state officers have great things to share and if they are always distracted by poor student behavior, the visit won't be successful.

6. REQUIRED!!! REQUIRED!!! Please stay in your classroom or assembly room during the state officer's presentation. Don't leave the state officer alone with your students. It is not their position to discipline or serve as a substitute teacher. Also state officers want feedback on how they can improve their presentation.

7. Give a positive introduction. You will set the mood for the visit. Get your students excited about a visit from the state officer and help them understand a little about what a state officer does for the Wisconsin FFA and the qualifications these officers have in order to serve in their positions. Include something in your curriculum the day or morning before to help students better understand the FFA organization structure and how State Officers provide leadership for the organization. This can be very helpful for students to better understand the role of a state FFA officer.

8. Make the state officer feel comfortable. You will have a more relaxed presentation. Remember these officers are still learning too and have not had professional teacher training. They have gained many great ideas through their summer training but can be very stressed when it comes to walking into unknown situations. Anything you can do to help the officers feel comfortable will assist in the overall presentation.

9. Have students turn off their cell phones during the state officer visit. No matter what your school policy might be for the use of cell phones, during a state officer's presentation we ask that you have students turn them off. If a state officer needs to use them for a certain activity they will inform you and the students.

10. Don't forget to give the state officers a lunch break and provide them with lunch. Will the state officer eat in the cafeteria or do they need to make arrangements outside of school for lunch? Please let them know what your plans are to provide them with lunch.

11. Let them know where to park – In the student parking lot or back by the Ag. Room? Do they need a parking pass? **With school security, there may be special procedures visitors have to follow when they arrive at your school. Please let the officer know what to expect.**

12. Remember that you do not have to pay mileage for the first visit that an officer makes to your chapter. If you are a multiple teacher program or have a middle school program, we can work out additional

paid visits. However, we do ask that chapters reimburse the state officers for any additional special events or chapter banquets they attend.

13. Make sure that the officer knows how to get to your school.

14. Let the state officer know ahead of time if you would like them to stay after school for anything.

15. Equity, Diversity and Inclusion is something that we want to accomplish in all activities that we do.

This includes the things that we can best do to accommodate all of your students.

Let your state officer know if:

a. There are **language barriers** with some students. We have a couple state officers fluent in Spanish... maybe they can attend with your state officer to assist. Or maybe there is an interpreter that is available the day of your state officer visit to help with those barriers.

b. Do you have **special needs students** that need extra assistance in participating in activities? Letting the state officer know ahead of time can help them prepare activities that include all students.

Letting us know how we can best serve students in your school, helps make this experience the best for everyone. It helps us communicate the great message of what FFA can do for young people and it helps our state officers grow in their leadership development in working with diverse populations.

Thank you for your assistance in helping organize a successful chapter visit!!