

**State FFA Creed Speaking Leadership Development Event**

**PURPOSE**

The FFA Creed outlines the organization’s beliefs regarding the industry of agriculture, FFA membership and the value of citizenship and patriotism. The Creed is recited by FFA members as part of the requirements to earn the Greenhand FFA Degree. The purpose of the Creed speaking leadership development event is to develop the public speaking abilities of members as well as to develop their self-confidence and contribute to their advancement in the FFA degree program.

**ELIGIBILITY**

This event is open to all first year FFA members as well as to FFA members in the 7th, 8th or 9th grade, regardless of number of years in FFA. Students who have placed first in the past are not eligible to compete. It is highly recommended participants be in official FFA dress in each event.

**FORMAT/GUIDELINES**

The event will include both an oral presentation as well as answering questions directly related to the FFA Creed. Event officials will randomly determine the speaking order. The program chairperson shall introduce each participant by contestant number and in order of the drawing. No props are to be used. Contestants will be held in isolation until their presentation. Contestant will not be allowed to have contact with any outside persons.

At the time of the event, the judges will be seated in different sections of the room in which the event is held. They will score each participant on the delivery of the Creed, using the score sheet provided. A timekeeper shall be designated who will record the time used.

Creed: Each contestant must recite the FFA Creed from memory using the current year’s Official FFA manual. Each contestant shall begin the presentation by stating “The FFA Creed by E. M. Tiffany.” Each contestant shall end the presentation with the statement “…that inspiring task. Thank you.” The event will be a timed activity with four minutes for presentation. After four minutes, the contestant will be deducted 1 point for every second over set time.

Questions: Each contestant will be asked three questions with a five- minute time limit. Sample questions have been provided in this resource.

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SCORING

Participants shall be ranked in numerical order on the basis of the final score. The judges’ ranking of each participant then shall be added, and the winner will be that participant whose total ranking is the lowest. Other placings will be determined in the same manner (low point score method of selection). Ties will be broken based on the greatest number of low ranks. Participant’s low rank will be counted and the participant with the greatest number of low ranks will be declared the winner. If a tie still exits, then the event superintendent will rank the participant’s response to questions. The participant with the greatest number of low ranks from the response to questions will be declared the winner. If a tie still exists then the participant’s raw scores will be totaled. The participant with the greatest total of raw points will be declared the winner.

**AWARDS**

The top 3 speakers will receive medals. The top state winner enrolled in 7th, 8th, or 9th grade will receive a check from the National FFA in the amount of $100. The top placed first-year FFA member speaker, if different from the previous winner (i.e. not enrolled in 7th, 8th or 9th grade) will receive a check in the amount of $100 from the Maine FFA. The top placed speaker who meets the national guidelines of being in grade 7, 8, or 9 may be given the opportunity to compete at national convention or Big E.

# REFERENCES

* Current year’s Official FFA Manual [Official FFA Manual - National FFA Organization](https://www.ffa.org/official-manual/)
* National FFA Creed Website [Creed Speaking - National FFA Organization](https://www.ffa.org/participate/ldes/creed-speaking/)

**Creed Speaking Rubric**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | **POSSIBLE****POINTS** |
| VOICE  |  |
| * Quality
 | 40 |
| * Pitch
 | 40 |
| * Force
 | 40 |
| * Articulation
 | 40 |
| * Pronunciation
 | 40 |
| **Voice Total:** | **200** |
|  |  |
| STAGE PRESENCE  |  |
| * Personal appearance
 | 50 |
| * Poise and Posture
 | 40 |
| * Attitude
 | 35 |
| * Confidence
 | 35 |
| * Personality and ease before audience
 | 40 |
| **State Presence Total:** | **200** |
|  |  |
| POWER OF EXPRESSION  |  |
| * Fluency
 | 30 |
| * Emphasis
 | 35 |
| * Directness
 | 35 |
| * Sincerity
 | 35 |
| * Communicative ability
 | 35 |
| * Conveyance of thought and meaning
 | 30 |
| * **Power of Expression Total:**
 | **200** |
|  |  |
| GENERAL EFFECT  |  |
| Extent to which the speech was interesting, understandable, convincing, pleasing and held attention | 100 |
| **General Effect Total:** | **100** |
|  |  |
| RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS\*  |  |
| Ability to answer satisfactorily the questions on asked by the judges, indicating familiarity with the subject. | 300 |
| **Response Total:** | **300** |
|  |  |
| Gross Total Points: 1000 |  |
| Less Time Deduction\*\*: |  |
| Less Accuracy Deduction\*\*\*: |  |
| **Net Total Points:** |  |
| Participant Ranking: |  |

\* Judges will agree on three questions before first speaker is admitted.

\*\* - 1 point per second over, determined by the timekeepers.

\*\*\* -20 points per word, determined by the accuracy judges.

**Sample Questions:**

• What reasons are there for believing in the future of agriculture?

• How can living and working on a good farm or being engaged in other agricultural pursuits be pleasant, as well as, challenging?

• How can we in agriculture provide leadership from ourselves?

• In your experiences, what is pleasant and challenging about ag. pursuits?

• Why is it important for those in agriculture to demonstrate leadership?

• How will you develop your own ability to work efficiently and think clearly?

• What achievements have been developed in your lifetime that will bring “better days through better ways” to the agriculture industry?

• As an FFA member, why is the creed important to you?

• What do you think is meant by, “with a faith born not of words, but of deeds”?

• Name some of the better things we now enjoy that have come to us from the struggles of former years.

• In what ways do you think progressive agriculturists are serving our own and the public interest in producing and marketing the product of our toil?

• What do you think is meant by, “I believe in less dependence on begging and more power in bargaining?

• Discuss a time when you demonstrated playing square with others.

• What do you think are the best traditions of our national life?

• How do you plan to exert an influence in your home and community?

• What do you think is meant by the lines I believe…“in less need for charity and more of it when needed”?

• Why should we be concerned with achievements won by the past generations of agriculturists?

• Explain the phrase “in the promise of better days through better ways”.

• What are some of the struggles of former years?

• Give an example of how “the things we now enjoy have come to use from the struggles of former years”.

• What agricultural pursuits are you involved in or plan to be involved in?

• What are some challenges of agricultural life? What are some joys of agricultural life?

• What part of the FFA creed means the most to you and why?

• The FFA Creed speaks to the best traditions of our national life. What are some traditions the agriculture industry should maintain despite advancing technology?

 • If the creed were to be revised again next year, what specific areas would you recommend be changed and why?