



CHAPTER NEWSLETTER FRANKLIN COUNTY MIDDLE FFA

SEPTEMBER 2017

2017-2018

FCMS FFA OFFICER TEAM

PRESIDENT	Abbie Gilbert
VICE PRESIDENT	Ginger Mitchell
SECRETARY	Gracie Minyard
TREASURER	Jacob Keese
REPORTER	Sydney Alley
SENTINEL	Ella Freeman
CHAPLAIN	Josie Hallford
HISTORIAN	Liam Ford



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LOCAL OFFICERS ATTEND COLT

By Sydney Allen,
FCMS FFA Reporter

The Franklin County Middle FFA kicked off its year with the annual Ag Olympics. Ag Olympics was the first “just for fun” activity for the year. It was an opportunity to welcome the members back to school and to greet our new members. The event was a fun filled meeting with an inflatable water slide and in a dunk booth from Bounce 4 Joy Inflatables, competitions such as Watermelon Eating, Sweet Tea Slurping and Ice Fishing, and a meal



from Little Cesars Pizza. Members practiced sportsmanship and teamwork as they competed in different activities at this event. Prizes were given to event winners and a pizza supper was served.

For the complete story see pg 2 of the full length newsletter on FCMS website.

The FFA makes a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for **Premier Leadership, Personal Growth and Career Success** through agricultural education.

The FFA Mission Statement

2017-2018 FFA CHAPTER EVENTS

Area II FFA Rally, Sept. 7-8	Franklin County FFA Week, Feb. 12-16
FFA Movie Night, Sept. 22	Young Farmer Auction, Mar. 3
Young Farmer Auction, Oct. 7	Spring Rock A Thon, Mar. 16
FFA Gravitopia Trip, Nov. 10	State FFA Conv, Apr. 26-28
Christmas Party at El Parian, Dec. 5	Parent Member Banquet, May 3
Discovery Conference, Jan. 26-27	Summer Leadership Camp, May 21-25 or May 28-June 1
FFA Ice Skating Trip, Jan. 30	

It is very important that you as an FFA member listen to announcements, keep an eye on social media, and remind your parents to sign up for emails, so that you know what events, contests and trips are occurring throughout the year.

AG OLYMPICS

By Sydney Allen,
FCMS FFA Reporter

The Franklin County Middle FFA kicked off its year with the annual Ag Olympics. Ag Olympics was the first “just for fun” activity for the year. It was an opportunity to welcome the members back to school and to greet our new members. The event was a fun filled meeting with an inflatable water slide and in a dunk booth from Bounce 4 Joy Inflatables, competitions such as Watermelon Eating, Sweet Tea Slurping and Ice Fishing, and a meal from Little Cesars Pizza. Members practiced sportsmanship and teamwork as they competed in different activities at

this event. Prizes were given to event winners and a pizza supper was served.

The FFA year is just getting started and many more events are scheduled throughout the year. From contests, convention, and camps, to chapter meetings and field trips, there are ways for all members to get involved.



Ag Olympics is just one of the fun events that FCMS FFA will host this year. Keep your ears open for other opportunities to get involved.

FLORAL DESIGN TRAINING

By Sydney Allen,
FMCS FFA Reporter

COVINGTON, GA – Franklin County FFA members, Christa Anderson, Madlen Hodges, Lydia Mercado, Hope Tompkins, and Jade Wester, and Franklin County Middle FFA members, Harley Adams, Gracie Amason, Gracie Minyard, Kaitlyn Morrison, and Chloe Pulliam recently attended the statewide FFA Floral Design Career Development Event training held at the GA FFA/ FCCLA Center. This two-day training was developed specifically for FFA members and FFA Advisors to strengthen their floral design skills as well as build confidence in their own creative ability. The training was led and sponsored by members of the Georgia State Florist Association along with generous donations from many

floral companies from across the nation. The partnership between the middle and high school agriculture programs and the Georgia State Florist Association plays a fundamental role in preparing students through hands on experiences for future careers in the floral industry. FFA Advisors/ Agriculture Teachers that were in attendance included Cale and Anna Watkins.

This year's State Floral Design Training participants were divided into four groups. Sessions were developed for beginners and those who are more advanced at both the junior (6th-9th grade) and senior (10th-12th grade) level. These specialized sessions allowed students more individual attention so that they may hone their designing skills in a particular ar-

ea. Beginner's sessions were for students new to floral design and focused on basic floral skills such as how to cover wire, how to make a centerpiece, how much water to put in the vase, and how to make a bow. Advanced sessions allowed students to move at a faster pace while designing more freely using skills taught in years past.

The Floral Design Career Development Event, which will be held in September, allows students to showcase their talents in a competitive environment by utilizing the principles and elements of design. Students use the principles of balance, proportion, scale, focal point, emphasis, rhythm, harmony, unity, and the technique of flower placement to create their designs.

Floral Design is just 1 of over 15 different CDE opportunities at FCMS FFA. What contest will you try out this year?



FFA MOVIE NIGHT

By Sydney Allen,
FMCS FFA Reporter

The Franklin County Middle School FFA will host movie night on Friday, September 22. Members will be able to bring lawn chairs and blankets and join us for a Family friendly movie. We will watch our movie on the football field or in the gym depending on the weather.

This event is for FFA members only. It will start at

6:30 pm and members will need to be picked up by 8:30 pm at the middle school. **We are going to ask that an adult come in during drop off and pick up to sign the FFA members in and out.** Families are welcome to stay and watch the movie with us if you choose, just please RSVP a total number.

Each FFA member will receive a free popcorn and

drink. Other concession will also be sold, so member may want to bring a little spending money for snacks.

Pick up a permission form from the FFA bulletin board today. Any FFA member and their family is welcome to attend, but you do need to RSVP and turn in your permission form by September 22.

FFA/ATHLETIC ENVIRONMENTAL CLEAN UP DAY

By Sydney Allen,
FMCS FFA Reporter

This year the Franklin County Middle School FFA is excited to partner with our school in a litter pick-up campaign. We will be hosting FFA/Athletic trash pick-up days on which our member will stay after school to help pick up trash around the school, attend the athletic event to show our support for our classmates, and will pick up trash at the conclusion of the game. We are really excited about this new opportunity and hope that it will encourage environmental stewardship amongst our members.

For our first attempt at this new venture we will be partnering with

the softball game on September 11. This opportunity is for FFA members only. It will begin right after school with the trash pick-up around the building and along the driveways; members will then attend the softball game. After the game, we ask that members stay and assist in picking up trash in and around the field. Members should be picked up roughly 30 minutes after the conclusion of the game.

To encourage participation, the first 10 members who turn in permission forms and sign up to help will get into the softball game for free. More members are welcome to stay but they will need to bring

money to get into the game. The FFA will also be selling meat sticks and lollipops at the game that day. Every member who stays after and helps pick up litter around the school will receive 1 free meat stick or lollipop as well. *Members must help pick up trash before and after the game in order to receive these incentives.*

We will be providing safety vests, gloves, and grabbers for the members who are helping. We hope that this school and community outreach program will be a big success and something that we continue through other sports seasons and events.

GROWING LEADERS COMMITTEE REPORTS

Edited for the Newsletter
By Sydney Allen,
FMCS FFA Reporter

Chairperson: Jacob Keese

Committee Secretary:
Ryleigh Segars

Members Present: Chase Coulter, Lex Turner, Landon Floyd, and Connor Anderson

Advisor: Anna Watkins

Purpose: The growing leaders committee meets at the beginning of the year to review the Growing Leaders division of the POA. They make recommendations on how to better plan for, promote, and conduct the activities.

They also work throughout the year to make sure that plans are followed through and events are successful.

The committee meeting was called to order at 3:30 on Friday, August 18, 2017 in the agriculture classroom shop at Franklin County Middle School. To begin the committee meeting members participated in a name initiative to get to know each other and

learn names.

The committee met to look at the Growing Leaders division of the FCMS FFA POA and made recommendations on those plans.

Recommendation 1: The committee approved the list of proposed chapter meeting speakers and recommends that when officers contact the speakers that those speakers be asked to have interactive plans, so that members are engaged and involved.

Recommendation 2: The committee recommended the following minute to win it games to be used in the 2017-2018 Small Town Show Down Challenge: watermelon eating, apple bobbing, moving skittles, pencil sharpening, bubble gum blowing, apple bobbing, bowling, fidget spinning, paper ball in bucket, bean boozled. More ideas will be discussed at a later committee meeting as well.

Recommendation 3: The committee was in favor of

serving donuts at the first chapter meeting because the meeting is opened to anyone who is interested and the numbers are unpredictable. Following this first chapter meeting, the committee suggests that chicken biscuits be the normal, rather than swapping to sausage every other month as in the past.

The Growing Leaders Division of the POA includes Leadership, Healthy Lifestyle, Scholarship, Personal Growth and Career Success Activities.



The Growing Leaders Committee members included Jacob Keese, Lex Turner, Landon Floyd, Chase Coulter, Ryleigh Segars, and Connor Anderson

BUILDING COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE REPORT

Edited for the Newsletter By Sydney Allen, FMCS FFA Reporter

Chairperson: Abbie Gilbert

Committee Secretary: Josie Hallford

Members Present: Jesse Porter, Rhett Floyd, Faith Smith, Haley Jackson, and Aubrey Hayes

Advisor: Anna Watkins

Purpose: The building communities committee meets at the beginning of the year to review the Building Communities division of the POA. They make recommendations on how to better use our resources to have the largest impact in our community. They also work throughout the year to make sure that community service projects are successful.

The committee meeting was called to order at 3:30 on Friday, August 18, 2017 in

the cafeteria beside the agriculture classroom shop at Franklin County Middle School. To begin the committee meeting members participated in a name initiative to get to know each other and learn names.

The committee met to look at the Building Communities division of the FCMS FFA POA and made recommendations on those plans. The committee approved all plans and moved onto discussion about the new Athletic/FFA Environmental Clean Up Days.

Recommendation 1:

The committee recommended that as an incentive that members who sign up to help get into the game for free. They feel that 15 members will be sufficient, and it was recommended that the chapter advisor speak with school

administration about this incentive.

Recommendation 2:

The committee recommended September 11 or September 15 softball games as the first Clean Up Day. The football schedule unfortunately does not allow us to host a clean up day during the month of September, so it was recommended that the chapter advisor look at the possibility of the Region Playoffs, which will be hosted this year at FCMS.

The Building Communities Division of the POA includes Environmental, Human Resources, Citizenship, Stakeholder Engagement, and Economic Development Activities.



The Building Communities Committee members included Abbie Gilbert, Josie Hallford, Jesse Porter, Rhett Floyd, Faith Smith, Haley Jackson, and Aubrey Hayes

STRENGTHENING AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE REPORT

Edited for the Newsletter By Sydney Allen, FMCS FFA Reporter

Chairperson: Gracie Minyard

Committee Secretary: Sydney Allen

Members Present: Canyon Randall, Haden Bone, Gavin Ford, Lexi Holbrooks, Carah Pulliam, and Chloe Pulliam

Advisor: Anna Watkins

Purpose: The strengthening agriculture committee meets at the beginning of the year to review the Strengthening Agriculture division of the POA. They make recommendations on how to best use our time and talents to increase membership, gather support for our program and teach others about agriculture. They also work throughout the year to make sure that agriculture activities are successful.

The committee meeting was called to order at 3:30 on Friday, August 18, 2017 in the hallway outside the agriculture classroom shop at Franklin County Middle School. To begin the committee meeting members participated in a name initiative to get to know each other and learn names.

The committee met to look at the Strengthening Agriculture division of the FCMS FFA POA and made recommendations on those plans. The committee approved all plans and moved onto discussion about the Ag Olympics and Movie Night our first two chapter recruitment events.

Recommendation 1: The committee recommended that the officers consider the following events for Ag Olympics: Sweet Tea Slurp, Frozen T-

Shirts, Watermelon Eating, Water the Flowers, Ice Fishing, Corn Cobb Shuck and Chunk, Sunflower Seed Spitting, Plunger Race. It was noted that only 5-6 games would be needed as there would also be an inflatable slide for members this year.

Recommendation 2: In regards to movie night, the committee recommended the following movie possibilities: Trolls, Sandlot, Mona, The Goonies, Finding Dory, or Hocus Pocus.

The Strengthening Agriculture Division of the POA includes Leadership, Healthy Support Group, Chapter Recruitment, Safety, Agricultural Advocacy, and Agricultural Literacy Activities.



The Strengthening Agriculture Committee members included Gracie Minyard, Sydney Allen, Lexi Holbrooks, Chloe Pulliam, Carah Pulliam, Haden Bone, Canyon Randall and Gavin Ford



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Text @fcmsffa to 81010 or
send an email to
fcmsffa@mail.remind.com

COMMUNITY SERVICE

This school year, the officer team is very excited to offer more community service opportunities. Our areas of focus this year will be Pop Tabs and Recycling program, Pennies for Patients, Helping Hands for Jesus, and Environmental Clean-up Days. Please make sure that you keep an eye on this section of the newsletter each month for more information.

Pop Tabs for Heifer International:

All year long the entire school will be collecting pop tabs for the FFA. As an August kick off, any pride class that collects TWO full jugs of pop tabs during the month of August will receive donuts.

FCMS FFA/Athletic Environmental Clean Up Days:

This year, FCMS FFA will partner with middle school athletics to pick-up trash and clean up fields once during each sports season (fall, winter and spring). Members will be able to earn chapter credit, use volunteer hours towards SAE projects in class, and help keep the environment a little greener at FCMS.

FRANKLIN CO. MIDDLE AGRICULTURE EDUCATION

Franklin County Middle FFA

Primary Business Address

Address Line 2

Address Line 3

Address Line 4

Phone: 555-555-5555

Fax: 555-555-5555

BUSINESS TAGLINE OR MOTTO -

FUNDRAISING & CHAPTER CREDIT

For the 2017-2018 school year, each fundraising opportunity will be coupled with a **chapter credit**. These credits can be used any FFA expense such as chapter shirts, FFA jackets, or FFA trips (Gravitopia, Discovery Conference, Ice Skating, etc.), camps and conventions or be used to pay for any other FFA expense.

The credit cannot be redeemed for cash and must be used on an FFA function by the end of the school year. Any credit that is not used by the end of the school year will be void. Credit will be handed out in the form of gift certificates, and it is the member's responsibility to keep up with his or her certificates. Certificates are not replaceable.

Pre-selling Country Meats snacks is a continuous way to earn chapter credit. Any FFA member can pick up a yellow order form from the bulletin board, pre-sell, and turn in their money and order forms on the last Friday of each month. Orders are filled the next week for members to distribute. *We will also have opportunities for students to sell Country Meats snacks during November and March by taking 25 at a time and selling to friends and family. This extra fundraiser will hopefully help members in paying for trips such as Discovery Conference, Convention and Camp.* For every 50 meat sticks sold, the member will receive \$5 in chapter credit.

Credit can also be earned by working at Young Farmer Auctions and selling Strawberries in February.

UPCOMING CDE OPPORTUNITIES

Agriscience Fair (8th Grade only)
Agriculture Mechanics (4 spots open)
Creed Speaking (1 spot)
Dairy Evaluation (1 spot)
Environmental Natural Resources STARTED
FFA Quiz (1 spot)
Floral Design STARTED
Floriculture STARTED
Forestry (11 spots open)
Horse Evaluation (4 spots open)
Jr. Prepared Public Speaking (0 spots open)
Lawn Mower Operations and

Maintenance (1 spot open/8th grade only)
Land Evaluation STARTED
Livestock Evaluation STARTED
Meats Evaluation STARTED
Nursery Landscape (4 spots open)
Parliamentary Procedure (3-4 spots open)
Poultry Evaluation (no spots open)
Wildlife Management (2 spots open)

This is a complete of all of the possible

contest opportunities. Our chapter typically competes in almost all of the contests available to middle school FFA members. It is your responsibility to listen to announcements, keep an eye on social media, and remind your parents to sign up for emails, so that you know what events, contests and trips are occurring throughout the year. CDEs sign ups will always be on the FFA bulletin board outside the cafeteria, so keep your eyes open and make sure to catch the opportunity to compete