

MIDDLE SCHOOL OPENING AND CLOSING CEREMONY CDE

PURPOSE

The Opening and Closing Ceremony CDE is designed to develop agricultural leadership by providing for middle school members participation in public speaking activities and stimulating interest in leadership and citizenship.

ELIGIBILITY

The participants must be members of a chartered Florida FFA Association chapter in grades 6, 7, or 8. The group can be the chapter's officer team or a group of members as selected by the chapter.

EVENT PROCEDURES

1. At each level, a CDE coordinator and three judges will be in charge of this event.
2. It is recommended that individuals be selected to check for accuracy during the event at all levels.
3. Each participant must be in official dress. Official dress will be scored on each team member, and the average team official dress score will be added to the final score for their presentation to determine the winner.

EVENT SCHEDULE

The contest will be held in three rounds: sub-district, district and state level competitions. Each chapter may enter one participant at the sub-district level with each sub-district forwarding their winners on to the district contest. The 12 district winners are then eligible to compete in the state contest.

STATE FINALS

The state level competition will include two preliminary flights. The top three (3) from each flight will move on to the finals. Contestants shall draw for places on the program. The program chairman shall then introduce each contestant by name and in order of the drawing.

EVENT PRACTICUMS

PERFORMANCE PRACTICUM

TEAM PRESENTATION

1. The event officials will randomly determine the competition order. The program chairman shall introduce each chapter by name and order of drawing. Applause shall be withheld until all participants have competed.



2. 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 chapter on the delivery, according to the score sheet provided.
3. The team will perform the opening and closing statement as per the Official FFA Manual.
4. Only the six constitutional officers and advisor portion will participate. All parts will be performed by team members (NO ADVISORS WILL PARTICIPATE WITH THEIR TEAM – their part will be performed by a student.)
5. The officer team (any or all members of the team are allowed to help in the set-up, as long as the sentinel is one of them. Advisors are not allowed to aid in set-up) will be responsible for placing station markers and chairs around the room as per the attached design. A maximum of five minutes will be allotted for set-up.
6. The teams shall make no other items of business or transitional statements between the opening and closing ceremony.
7. National FFA Station Markers will be provided by the CDE Host. Teams must use the station markers provided. Team will not be permitted to use their own station markers.

TEAM QUESTIONS

Each student on the team will answer one question at the end of their presentation. The questions will be based on selected chapters of the Official FFA Manual as listed below:

- Sub-District: Chapter Officers
- District: Chapter Officers and Chapter Meetings
- State: Chapter Officers, Chapter Meetings, and Program of Activities

SCORING

Practicum	Activity	Team
Performance	Room Set-Up and Presentation of Opening & Closing Ceremonies	530
Performance	Questions	70
Official Dress		350
Total		950

Participants shall be ranked in numerical order on the basis of the final score to be determined by each judge without consultation. The judges' ranking of each participant shall then be added, and the winner will be that whose total of rankings is the lowest. Other placings shall be determined in the same manner. (low point method of selection)

TIE BREAKERS

At discretion of the CDE Coordinator.

AWARDS

Awards will be presented at an awards ceremony. Awards are presented to teams as well as individuals based upon their rankings. Awards are sponsored by a cooperating industry sponsor(s) as a special project and/or by the general fund of the Florida FFA Foundation.

REFERENCES

- Official FFA Manual

OFFICIAL FFA CEREMONIES SCRIPT

- Ceremonies emphasize the purpose of meetings, the duties of officers and the significance of recognition given to individuals.
- All official FFA ceremonies are to be memorized, rehearsed and conducted with pride and dignity. A “walk-through” in the room where the meeting, banquet or special function is to be held will ensure a smooth performance if proper physical arrangements are complete and all parties know their responsibilities and speaking assignments. Never forget that you and your chapter are on display. Your performance should reflect sincerity and leadership.
- Use correct terminology according to gender. For example, use “madam president” in addressing a female president. Often it is possible to replace gender specific terms with non-sexist language, i.e. Mary Smith presiding; Fred Jones presiding.

OPENING CEREMONY

Opening the Meeting (When the time set for the opening of the meeting arrives, the president, after quietly arranging for any necessary officer substitutions, rises, raps for attention, secures order, and proceeds as indicated below. The other officers rise as called upon by the vice president, and remain standing until seated by the president.)

President: “The (meeting room, banquet hall, etc.) will come to order. We are now holding a meeting of the (chapter, district, etc.) FFA (chapter, district, etc.)

Mr./Mdm. Vice President, are all officers at their stations?”

Vice President: (Rising and facing the president) “I shall call the roll of officers, determine if they are at their stations and report back to you, Mr./Mdm. President.”

Vice President: (Calling roll of officers) “The sentinel.”

Sentinel: “Stationed by the door.”

Vice President: “Your duties there?”

Sentinel: “Through this door pass many friends of the FFA. It is my duty to see that the door is open to our friends at all times and that they are welcome. I care for the meeting room and paraphernalia. I strive to keep the room comfortable and assist the president in maintaining order.”

Vice President: “The reporter.”

Reporter: “The reporter is stationed by the flag.”

Vice President: “Why by the flag?”

Reporter: “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 Puerto Rico and from the state of Maine to Hawaii.”

Vice President: “The treasurer.”

Treasurer: “Stationed at the emblem of Washington.”

Vice President: “Your duties there?”

Treasurer: “I keep a record of receipts and disbursements just as Washington kept his farm accounts—carefully and accurately. I encourage thrift among the members and strive to build up our financial standing through savings and investments. George Washington was better able to serve his country because he was financially independent.”

Vice President: “The secretary.”

Secretary: “Stationed by the ear of corn.”

Vice President: “Your duties there?”

Secretary: “I keep an accurate record of all meetings and correspond with other secretaries wherever corn is grown and FFA members meet.”

Vice President: “The advisor.”

Advisor: “Here by the owl.”

Vice President: “Why stationed by the owl?”

Advisor: “The owl is a time-honored emblem of knowledge and wisdom. Being older than the rest of you, I am asked to advise you from time to time, as the need arises. I hope that my advice will always be based on true knowledge and ripened with wisdom.

“Mr./Mdm. Vice President, why do you keep a plow at your station?”

Vice President: “The plow is the symbol of labor and tillage of the soil. Without labor, neither knowledge nor wisdom can accomplish much. My duties require me to assist at all times in directing the work of our organization. I preside over meetings in the absence of our president, whose place is beneath the rising sun.”

Advisor: “Why is the president so stationed?”

Vice President: “The rising sun is the token of a new era in agriculture. If we will follow the leadership of our president, we shall be led out of the darkness of selfishness and into the glorious sunlight of brotherhood and cooperation. Mr./Mdm. President, all officers are at their stations.

President: (Rises and faces the vice president) “Thank you, Mr./Mdm. Vice President.” (All take seats at tap of gavel.) “The secretary will call the roll of members.”

Secretary: “There are members and guests present, Mr./Mdm. President.”

President: “Thank you. FFA members, why are we here?” (All members stand at 3 taps of gavel.)

All members in unison: “To practice brotherhood, honor agricultural opportunities and responsibilities, and develop those qualities of leadership which an FFA member should possess.” (All are seated at 1 tap of gavel.)

President: “May we accomplish our purposes. I now declare this meeting of the (chapter, district, etc) FFA (chapter, district, etc) duly opened for the transaction of business, or attention to any matters which may properly be presented.”

(Proceed with the regular order of business)

CLOSING CEREMONY

When the business at hand has been disposed of or an appointed time for closing has arrived, the procedure is as indicated below.

President: “Mr./Mdm. Secretary, do you have a record of any further business which should now be transacted?”

Secretary: (Rises, replies and is seated.) “I have none, Mr./Mdm. President.”

President: “Does any member know of any new or unfinished business which should properly come before this meeting?” (If no answer, proceed as follows.)

“We are about to adjourn this meeting of the (chapter, district, etc.) FFA .(chapter, district, etc.)

As we mingle with others, let us be diligent in labor, just in our dealings, courteous to everyone, and, above all, honest and fair in the game of life. Fellow members and guests, join me in a salute to our flag.”

(Taps three times with gavel to call members to stand, face the flag at the reporter’s station, and with their right hands over their hearts, repeat the following pledge.)

All in unison: “I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.”

President: “I now declare this meeting adjourned.” (Taps once with gavel and the meeting is adjourned.)

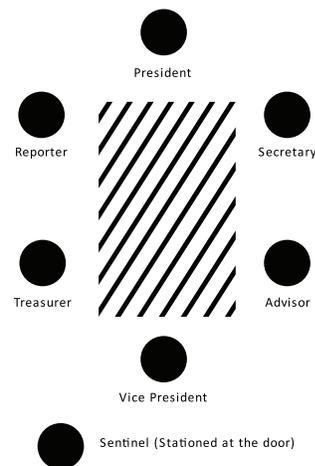
(The secretary may call the complete roll if necessary and report on that basis. However, it is a time-consuming procedure for a local chapter when all members’ names are in the Secretary’s book where they can be quickly consulted and checked beforehand.)

OFFICIAL MEETING ROOM SET UP

An organized meeting room will set the proper stage for conducting chapter business. The correct room arrangement for a meeting is diagrammed below.

The Flag should be placed at the Reporter’s station. The CDE Host should place the flag at the beginning of the CDE. The flag should not be moved in between teams.

The Sentinel should be stationed by the door that the team enters, no matter the location.



**FLORIDA FFA ASSOCIATION
OPENING AND CLOSING CEREMONIES
CAREER DEVELOPMENT EVENT
SCORESHEET**

Points Earned Per Team

Points Possible	Scoring Category	Team 1	Team 2	Team 3	Team 4	Team 5	Team 6
70	Room Set-Up (10 points per station marker)						
350	Performance of Officer Parts (50 points per part. Five point deduction for each word missed, etc.) <i>President - 50 points</i> <i>Vice President - 50 points</i> <i>Secretary - 50 points</i> <i>Treasurer - 50 points</i> <i>Reporter - 50 points</i> <i>Sentinel - 50 points</i> <i>Advisor - 50 points</i>						
35	Appearance and Style of Delivery						
50	Voice and Inflection of Team						
25	Poise of Presiding Officer						
70	Questions (One questions per officer; 10 points per question)						
600	Total Team Scores						