



## Why Become a State and National FFA Alumni Chapter?

Created: 01/2018

*Many people wonder why it is important to establish a local FFA Alumni chapter affiliated with both state and national. The following points describe the value state and national levels add to a local FFA Alumni chapter.*

### Being a Part of the FFA Family

By forming an FFA Alumni chapter, you can use the registered trademarks (FFA and FFA Alumni and Supporter emblems, Future Farmers of America and the initials "FFA") and file for tax-exempt status as a subsidiary of the federally chartered nonprofit organization by the U.S. Congress under Public Law 105-225. The control and use of its trademarks are protected by law and cannot be used or sold by anyone without the approval of the National FFA Organization. Additionally, as an active alumni member, you are considered eligible for discounts and offers made available to FFA from our various sponsors and can work with vendors that have been identified as official FFA fundraiser providers and retail licensees. Your members can take an active role in helping determine agricultural education/FFA programming and its future by having a voice in FFA and the agricultural education family.

### FFA Alumni Chapters are like Booster Clubs with Structure

Due to affiliation with the state and national organizations; a local FFA Alumni chapter is required to operate under a set structure, constitution and bylaws. This provides organization and consistency. Also, by being part of a much larger family, members can share and gain ideas from other alumni members from all over the country. The camaraderie and fellowship with other alumni members help to grow the impact alumni make on the program.

### Independent Entity from School

Booster clubs are governed by the school in which they support; alumni chapters have an autonomy that allows them to open their own bank accounts, govern their activities and operations and ensure that the funds generated through their efforts are distributed to the agricultural education program/FFA chapter as determined in their bylaws.

### State and National Backing

State and national backing lends validity to the organization and allows people to engage in support of your local program no matter where they reside. Additionally, it provides a support system that a booster club lacks. Resources flow from national and state to support the local level and develop local members into effectively engaged volunteers within the agricultural education program.

### Powerful Advocacy/Strength in Numbers

FFA Alumni work to ensure that every student has the opportunity to participate in agricultural education and FFA by advocating with local school boards, state and national policy makers.

## Career Connections

FFA supplies a direct line to make connections with major agricultural companies and corporations within today's fast-growing career area, agriculture.

## Marketing and Communications for Your Members

Your members will receive monthly communications from the National FFA Organization with key tools and resources to be the best volunteer possible for your local FFA chapter. Knowledge is your best defense in today's rapidly changing educational system. FFA Alumni members have a variety of ways to stay connected, including publications, e-newsletters, exclusive website content, special reports, email alerts, and research data, among others. Up-to-date information, when you need it!

## Relevant and Useful Resources

FFA provides relevant and useful resources that are out of the box ready to use by the local member. Professionally developed guides, documents, and forms are regularly created and provided free of charge for you to use to ensure that you are making an impact.

## Invaluable Networking Opportunities

With a membership base from every aspect of agriculture, FFA Alumni is a one-stop networking shop! From National FFA Convention & Expo to regional and state conferences, FFA provides many ways for you to meet and build relationships with fellow professionals, supporters and allies. Local and state affiliates have the opportunity to share their story, ideas, and members accomplishments in membership publications, along with other FFA communications.

## World-Class Educational Programs

FFA Alumni members have the opportunity to take advantage of member benefits such as professional development and training. The national association and many states host events that include opportunities for networking and personal development and skill development. In our ever-changing world, the key to success for FFA Alumni members can be found in our development programs. Alumni members learn how to strengthen and grow themselves and their local programs while impacting more students.

## Access to Experts

Wouldn't it be great to have a team of industry experts at your disposal to address your specific questions for free? By becoming an alumni member you have thousands of individuals working toward the same goal that would love to share their successes, roadblocks and ideas with you to help you grow and engage members.

## Awards, Scholarships and Grants

When forming an FFA Alumni chapter, you have the opportunity to receive recognition for your work. By being an FFA Alumni chapter, you can offer additional opportunities for scholarships and grants that are only available to students/chapters with a state and nationally chartered, active National FFA Alumni chapter. There are also grants available to nationally chartered alumni chapters that can be used to develop and strengthen members as well as help fund student partner projects. Some of the national alumni opportunities include:

- Outstanding Achievement Award
- Outstanding FFA Alumni Chapter, Collegiate FFA Alumni Chapter and State FFA Association Awards
- Alumni Legacy Grants

## Grow Leaders

FFA Alumni picks up where student membership left off and continues to grow you into the leader you were meant to be. Through many different formats of events, FFA develops and equips alumni members to be the most impactful and engaged leaders they can be at local, state, and national levels.