

Central FFA Chapter

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February 1, 2022

Greetings Oregon FFA,

Like most awkward freshman, I had no idea what I was getting myself into on my very first day of high school. I landed in an Introduction to Agriculture class my first semester, and while my agriculture teacher never gave up on me joining FFA, I observed its happenings and leadership from a very safe distance. *“What is an ‘ag kid?’ Who is allowed in the FFA?”* These were the thoughts restlessly making noise in my brain as I finally walked into my very first FFA meeting. There I was, a “non-ag kid” in an “ag club,” surrounded by “ag kids”... Or so I thought. My journey was finally beginning.

Even after I participated in many activities and contests, it wasn't until I became a Central FFA Officer myself that I realized that there is *no such thing as an “ag kid.”* While our organization is home to many students who engage with agriculture at home every day, I finally learned that *anyone* can be a true-to-the-blue FFA member. I had foolishly made my entire first year in our organization feeling as an outsider, and not feeling I fit the mold. I have grown. I am proud. I am an FFA kid. This is a mold for any kid that loves to learn, is willing to try something new, and wants to serve their community!

There are so many things in this life that are all about perspective. Are we being welcoming, or exclusive? Are we positive influences, or are we wasting our talents? Are we making sure everyone in our schools and communities has a place, wherever that may be, or are we only caring about ourselves? Oregon FFA members, you know and I know that FFA is for everyone, and that the more diversity, inclusion, and acceptance we have in our organization, the stronger and better we will be - for our organization, and for each other. Taking that first leap of faith to attend a first FFA meeting can be a daunting one. We have the ability and the power to change the perspective of others, and make sure that all our peers know that the only requirement is to be your true, authentic self.

I love being in my blue corduroy, and I am passionate about serving this great organization alongside all of you Oregon FFA members. I am thrilled to announce my candidacy for the 2022-2023 Oregon FFA State Officer Team and hope to continue encouraging others to put on their own blue jacket for the first time. This blue jacket is for everyone, and I can't wait to see everyone in theirs at the Oregon FFA State Convention!



Sincerely,

Carlos Rodarte

“There are two ways of spreading light: to be the candle or the mirror that reflects it.”

- Edith Wharton

Freshman 2018-2019	Sophomore 2019-2020	Junior 2020-2021	Senior 2021-2022
	Greenhand Degree	Chapter Degree	State Degree
<p>FFA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> District Soil Judging Food For All <p>School:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Intro Agriculture Advanced Agriculture Interact Club Upward Bound Academic All-Stars Rotary Student of the Year - Ag <p>Other:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> St. Patrick's Youth Group 	<p>FFA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter Agriculture Sales CDE- 2nd District Agriculture Sales CDE- 3rd State Agriculture Sales District Soils Judging FFA Week Committee Super Bowl Drive-Thru BBQ Fundraiser FFA Day at the Capital Virtual State Convention Virtual National Convention District Job Interview Contest LDE- 2nd District Parliamentary Procedure LDE- 3rd Barn Clean Up Leadership Team Lower Willamette Greenhand Conference Central Greenhouse Plant Sale Wreath Making Community Class Flower Arrangements Community Class Road Clean-Up Food For All Trick or Treat For Cans Community Service Central FFA Banquet Central FFA Alumni Auction Ag in the Classroom <p>SAE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Greenhouse SAE <p>School:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upward Bound Summer Academy Academic All-Stars <p>Other:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Altar Tree Service Work CHS Freshman Night 	<p>FFA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leadership Team Central FFA President Lower Willamette District Vice President District Agriculture Sales CDE- 1st State Agriculture Sales CDE District Job Interview LDE District Extemporaneous Speaking LDE- 3rd Sectionals Extemporaneous Speaking LDE Sectionals Job Interview LDE Virtual Lower Willamette District Leadership Camp Polk County Fair Virtual State Convention Virtual Oregon FFA State Convention Delegate season State Floriculture CDE State Vet Science CDE Central FFA Record-Keeping Award Prepared Public Speaking LDE Barn Clean Up Central Greenhouse Plant Sale Catering <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thompson Wedding Pearson Wedding Ainsworth Wedding FFA Field Day Road Clean-Up Food For All Central FFA Banquet Drive Through BBQ Fundraiser <p>SAE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Greenhouse SAE Altar Tree Service SAE Market Hog SAE Meat Goat SAE <p>School:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Power Peers Upward Bound Summer Academy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Education Mentorship Academic All-Stars 	<p>FFA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Central FFA President Lower Willamette District Vice President District Officer Training Living 2 Service Conference District Agriculture Sales CDE- 2nd State Agriculture Sales CDE- 7th District Job Interview LDE District Parliamentary Procedure District Extemporaneous Speaking District Soils CDE-2nd Polk County Fair Citizenship Award Lower Willamette District Leadership Camp Summer Executive Meeting FFA Week Committee Central FFA Officer Retreat Welcome Back BBQ Wreath Community Class Pumpkin Arrangements Community Class Virtual National Convention Road Clean-Up Central FFA Alumni Auction Ag in the Classroom District Floriculture CDE <p>SAE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Greenhouse SAE Agriculture Construction SAE Market Hog SAE <p>School:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Power Peers Upward Bound Academic All-Stars National Honor Society M.E.Ch.A (Chicano Student Movement of Aztlan) Food For All Cesar Chavez Leadership Conference <p>Other:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capital Ambassador Program (OSAC) Willamette Promise College Conference Cusinela- Cashier

