

Bend FFA  
Mountain View High School  
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FFA Members,

The FFA has always been a part of my life, as I grew up hearing my mothers' stories of her experiences I knew it was something that I would love, but after my freshman year in the organization I still desired the stereotypical high school experience. So my sophomore year I tried out for the cheer squad, and to my delight I made it. I thought that being a cheerleader would make me a part of something and that I would have a group to belong to. I thought that I had a group, that those people were my friends. But I had to pretend to be someone that I wasn't when I was with them. I was supposed to fit the cheerleader mold, but that was not me. Still I pushed past this because I, Kaylee Streeter, had a group and I belonged to something. Little did I know I was already a part of a group that filled the needs I sought in other aspects of my life.

At the end of my junior year I was faced with a decision, a decision between FFA and cheerleading. When I really thought about the benefits of both my choice became obviously clear. I was not ready to let go of this wonderful organization or the life-long bonds I have made with my fellow members around the state and the nation. I dedicated all of my efforts to the FFA and really started to recognize what being part of a group that accepted you for you and builds you up when life is tearing you down, was like. These people will forever be my kind of people. They can act weird and crazy without the fear of people looking down at them and have the courage to be themselves which, on the inside, we all crave to have the same type of courage. I did not want to accept that some of my old friends were not my friends at all. They were friends with a girl who used to be me. It was hard to let go of them and the old me, but I started to realize that their friendships did not hold the substance of those I had made in the FFA.

My life changed for the better after losing the pressure that came along with being two different people. I chose something that made me who I am. If I could give one person advice in my year as a State FFA Officer, I would tell them to stay true to themselves, to be happy themselves and play square with those whose happiness depends upon you, Find friends that accept you for you, because pretending to be someone you're not can make you lose sight of who you truly are. This is the path I have chosen. Oregon FFA I am proud to announce my candidacy for the 2012-2013 Oregon State FFA Officer Team and I can't wait to see you all at the 2012 Oregon FFA State Convention in Hermiston, Oregon this March.

See you in Hermiston,

Kaylee Streeter

Central Oregon District Reporter



***"Say how you feel, be who you are, because those who mind don't matter, and those who matter don't mind"***

***-Dr. Suess***