

# **NYSSA FFA CHAPTER**

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Courage is resistance to fear,  
mastery of fear, not absence of  
fear.

**Mark Twain**

Dear Oregon FFA,

There you are, waiting in line for the most exhilarating roller coaster in the whole park. You've been putting it off all day, suggesting rides that stay closer to the ground and don't mess with your equilibrium; but now is the time to let go, find that courage deep, *deep* down, and enjoy the ride. As you get closer to the front of the line you realize your knees are quivering and you're squeezing your best friend's arm tighter and tighter. You finally make it, the man waves you over, and you sit down in the little metal seat that, for the next three and a half minutes, holds your life in its hands. As the cold metal bar comes down across both of your laps you brace yourself for any of the worst-case-scenarios your imaginative mind can think up. You begin to move, slowly at first but steadier as you continue on. That's when you come to the realization that you are faced with two choices; you could tense every muscle in your body, clench onto the bar for dear life, and pray for it to be over, or you could throw up your hands, close your eyes, scream at the top of your lungs, and enjoy every insane minute.



As a freshman in FFA and a first year Ag student I was faced with a very similar decision. I could be overwhelmed by the number of events available to me, or I could jump in with both feet and take advantage of the opportunities. My natural instinct was to go with the first choice but then I thought about what I was doing and realized that I could not pass up an opportunity like this, a chance to better myself, learn more and gain friendships that will last forever. I had so many choices to choose from and I didn't know what I wanted to do but I didn't let that slow me down, I geared up, jumped in and didn't let anything hold me back. I knew that time would go by fast so I took in every moment that I possibly could and made memories that will never be forgotten.

As an FFA organization we need to be able to choose to never let anything get in our way of achieving our true potential. We can't let our minds tell us that we can't do something, that we won't be good enough or, let our natural instinct overpower what can better us as people. We need to enjoy every moment that is given to us. Oregon FFA don't hold back from being your true self, choose to throw up your hands, close your eyes, scream at the top of your lungs and ENJOY THE RIDE!!

Sara Peterson

Nyssa FFA Chapter