



600 S. 1st St.
Hermiston, OR 97838

Hermiston FFA Chapter

Dear Oregon FFA,

The discovery of my passion presented itself not as a sudden enlightenment or spark or miracle, but instead, was disguised within one of the most humbling experiences of my life. On this particular venture, I found myself in a hospital room 2,000 miles away from home, reclining in my makeshift bed composed of waiting room chairs. I had pushed it close to my dad's bedside earlier that day, and even though I knew that there would be a team of doctors and nurses monitoring his every heartbeat throughout his recovery, I insisted on staying. Even at two in the morning, I still could not bring myself to fall asleep.



In my mind, I had put myself in that hospital bed. I had already slipped my feet into my dad's shoes, and I knew how relieved I would feel to wake up and find someone familiar at my side; something to offer encouragement to hold onto, a gift of comfort in a time of confusion and pain. I knew that I could be a source of solace and relief, even if it only made a small impact. Today, he may not remember what I did, but I know that he remembers the companionship he was surrounded by.

In a place so far from normalcy, I wanted to provide a sense of home. Ultimately, it wasn't anxiety that I felt that kept me awake that night, but rather, a call to offer companionship and support in a time of dire need.

Oregon FFA, we have all found ourselves in positions of exhaustion, pain, and even loneliness in our lives. Those moments, though difficult, are times when we have the opportunity to seek out and extend companionship to those who need it most. We all have the chance to be the relentless companion that someone else needs. Wholeheartedly, I am determined to work tirelessly towards my goal to continue to instill and provide companionship in every way possible, to every individual possible. I am beyond excited to announce my candidacy for the 2022-2023 Oregon FFA State Officer team! As we look forward to the 94th State Convention, I challenge all of us to search for ample opportunities to provide companionship to all of our fellow FFA members.

Kindest regards,

Alexis Leathers
2020-2021 Hermiston FFA President
2020-2021 Blue Mountain District FFA Vice President
2021-2022 Hermiston FFA President
2021-2022 Blue Mountain District FFA President

“Sometimes the smallest things take up the most room in your heart.”

- Winnie The Pooh