



Bend FFA Chapter

2755 NE 27th St, Bend, OR 97701

“Learning to Do, Doing to Learn, Earning to Live, Living to Serve”

Dear Oregon FFA,

Growing up, it seemed like there were a lot of things I couldn't do. Life seemed full of limits. Some limits are physical: At five foot nothing, chances are slim that I'll ever be able to dunk a basketball. Some limits are put in place by the people who care about us most, like my brother telling me to not put my fingers between his scissors while making a cardboard box fort. Other limits are put in place to protect us, such as our state's low-speed limits and other traffic laws, which we know save lives. However, not all limits are good. Some limits we place on ourselves restrain our potential.

Last year I was given the opportunity to realize my full potential when my close friend, Olivia, asked me to be her wedding coordinator. I immediately said yes, excited to help make her special day as perfect as I could! As the wedding day got closer, my excitement turned to doubt from my own insecure thoughts. Thoughts like: Will vendors even listen to a short sixteen-year-old on the wedding day? What if there's a problem I don't know how to fix? I've never done this before, so what makes me think I'm capable of doing it now? How am I supposed to ensure that the bride and groom have all their wedding dreams come true? I quickly realized that these paralyzing limits weren't doing me any good. I took a breath and began to prepare.

On the wedding day, I was the first one at the venue and prepared to work my hardest. In 12 hours, we pulled it off, Olivia looked beautiful and didn't have to worry about a thing. With sore feet, a hungry stomach, and a full heart I watched Olivia and her new husband drive off into the sunset with “just married” painted on the back of their car. I was so happy I didn't let my potential be limited to coordinate this wedding because of insecure thoughts.

We all have doubts, but through enough hard work and preparation, we can be successful. We can all agree that we've been tempted to limit our potential inside and outside of our blue jacket. All our FFA journeys have faced different obstacles and struggles, and sometimes the hard times seem like they outweigh the impact we make. But we can't let these thoughts stop us!

I am enthusiastic to announce my candidacy for the 2023-2024 Oregon FFA State Officer team! As we prepare for the 95th Oregon FFA State Convention, I encourage you to not limit your potential. Let's unleash our potential together throughout this next year!

Sincerely,

Jael Cruikshank
Central Oregon FFA District President
Bend FFA Chapter Vice President



“You can't go back and change the beginning, but you can start where you are and change the ending.”

-C.S. Lewis

Freshman

2019-2020

FFA

Degree: Greenhand

Activities/Awards:

- Swine SAE
- Dairy SAE
- Three Sister Gifts Co-Ownership SAE
- Cuppa Yo Placement SAE - Employee
- Chapter Kickoff Meeting
- National Convention
- District Greenhand Conference
- Chapter Dessert Recognition Night
- Chapter Fruit Fundraiser
- District Beginning Parliamentary Procedure – Chair, 1st
- Sectional Beginning Parliamentary Procedure – Chair, 1st
- State Beginning Parliamentary Procedure – Chair, 1st
- Chapter Creed Speaking – 1st
- District Creed Speaking – 3rd
- Jason Wetzler's Invitational Creed Contest – 4th
- Chapter Teriyaki Madness Fundraiser
- State Convention
- Chapter Banquet
- Rodeo Program Fundraiser

Other:

- Youth Group Leadership and Hospitality Team
- Youth Group Band
- Speakers for Jesus President
- Speakers for Jesus Speech Contest – Advanced, 1st
- Friday School Band
- Respite Night
- Church Media Team
- Church Kids Ministry
- VBS Leader

Sophomore

2020-2021

FFA

Degree: Chapter

Office Held:

- Chapter Community Service Chairman

Activities/Awards:

- Swine SAE
- Dairy SAE
- Three Sister Gifts Co-Ownership SAE
- Cuppa Yo Placement SAE - Manager
- District Virtual Leadership Camp
- Virtual National Convention
- Chapter Dessert Recognition Night
- District Ag Sales – 2nd
- Sectionals Parliamentary Procedure – 3rd
- Sectionals Sophomore Public Speaking – 2nd
- State Sophomore Public Speaking – 2nd
- Virtual State Convention
- District Tractor Driving
- District Shop Skills
- Chapter Fall Banquet
- Chapter Outstanding Sophomore
- Chapter Mod Pizza Fundraiser
- Oregon District Officer Training
- Deschutes County Fair – Awards Ceremony MC
- Rodeo Program Fundraiser
- Chapter Officer Retreat

Other:

- Youth Group Leadership and Hospitality Team
- Youth Group Band
- Honor Roll
- Church Road Cleanup Community Service
- Respite Night
- Church Media Team
- Church Kids Ministry
- VBS Facilitator

Junior

2021-2022

FFA

Degree: State

Office Held:

- Chapter Secretary
- Central Oregon District Treasurer

Activities/Awards:

- Swine SAE
- Dairy SAE
- Three Sister Gifts Ownership SAE
- Cuppa Yo Placement SAE - Manager
- District Leadership Camp
- District Rituals – 1st
- Chapter Recruitment Workshop Facilitator
- National Convention
- Chapter Dessert Recognition Night
- District Ag Sales
- Chapter Fruit Fundraiser
- District Parliamentary Procedure – Chair, 1st
- Sectional Parliamentary Procedure – Chair, 1st
- State Parliamentary Procedure – Chair, 5th
- District Advanced Public Speaking – 1st
- Sectional Advanced Public Speaking – 3rd
- Chapter Chili Feed Fundraiser
- State Convention
- Oregon District Officer Training
- State Executive Committee Meetings
- Culver's Chapter Banquet
- Crook County's Chapter Banquet
- Redmond's Chapter Banquet
- Chapter Banquet
- Dufur's Chapter Banquet
- Tractor Driving
- Chapter Officer Retreat
- Deschutes County Fair – Awards Ceremony MC
- Rodeo Program Fundraiser

Other:

- Youth Group Leadership and Hospitality Teams
- Youth Group Band
- Honor Roll
- Respite Night
- Church Media Team
- Church Kids Ministry
- VBS Facilitator

Senior

2022-2023

FFA

Degree: State

Office Held:

- Chapter Vice President
- Central Oregon District President

Activities/Awards:

- Three Sister Gifts Ownership SAE
- Cuppa Yo Placement SAE - Manager
- Donuts in the Ag Room
- District Leadership Camp
- District Rituals – 1st, Outstanding Vice President
- Chapter Pumpkin Patch
- National Convention
- Chapter Dessert Recognition Night – Keynote Co-Presenter
- District Ag Sales
- Chapter Fruit Fundraiser
- Chapter Christmas Parade
- Chapter Holiday Workshop
- Chapter Christmas Cards Community Service
- Chapter Movie/Game Night
- Chapter Membership Committee, Chair
- Deschutes County Fair Association Dinner
- Parliamentary Procedure, Chair
- State Executive Committee Meetings

Other:

- Youth Group Leadership and Hospitality Teams
- Youth Group Event Planning Team
- Youth Group Band
- Honor Roll
- Church Media Team
- Church Kids Ministry