



# Cove FFA Chapter

803 Main Street ♦ Cove, Oregon 97824

*"Do not let your fears choose your destiny"*  
*-Unknown*

Oregon FFA,

Spiders, snakes, heights, dogs, thunder and lightning; fears are all around. Many of us go throughout our lives never truly living because we have never conquered our fears. But why? Why are we so scared of a certain thing or idea? Research shows that people are inherently insecure. Could this be the reason people carry fear? Author Susan Gale once said, "Nothing holds you back more than your own insecurities." Oregon FFA, we control our own destinies it is up to you if you are willing to overcome your fears.

My biggest fear growing up, unlike a lot of kids my age, was going to school. I'm not talking about going to school because I hated it, or because I wasn't a good student; I feared going to school because of constant humiliation. I didn't fit in, not only was I loud and outgoing, I was also the girl with a scar on her face. As a four year old girl, I was attacked by a German Shepherd. The attack resulted in 101 stitches in my face, and 12 staples in my head. After countless hours and prayers later, I came out of surgery with a miraculous chance of life, that many never thought to be possible. My classmates were frightened by the scar on my face and they reacted in the only way they knew how, bullying, and teasing. I was referred to as "Scarface" for the majority of my childhood. The scar faded, but the teasing and bullying continued, until I joined our FFA Discovery Program. Through FFA, I gained a whole new confidence that allowed me to believe in myself and not permit others to determine who I am or who I will become in the future.



As a seventh grade girl I fell in love with The National FFA Organization. Why you may ask? Because I had never met a group of people so accepting. I had finally found my voice; my second family. My advisor pushed me to do the FFA Creed my freshmen year, where I made it to State. As I stood on that stage, looking out at the sea of over 2,000 blue jackets, I knew from that moment on, that FFA was where I belonged. I was able to be myself, with no judgment, and feel comfortable in my own skin. I dove into public speaking with a dedication and drive I had never felt before. I, for once, was proud and confident of who I was. I owe this all to FFA.

No one should be ashamed of who they are. Everyone should embrace and love themselves, flaws included. It is with that, Oregon FFA, that I humbly announce my candidacy for the 2017-2018, Oregon FFA State Officer Team. If I could only touch one person and show them how perfect they are, that would be enough for me. This organization has helped me conquer my fears of not fitting in. I want other members to know that if they allow it, this organization can truly be life changing. I want to leave you with one last quote to think about, as this is one I have lived by for many years; "So please ask yourself: What would I do if I weren't afraid? And then go do it." -Sheryl Sandberg.

Yours Truly,

Karley Witten

Cove FFA Chapter President

Eastern Oregon District Vice President