

Washington FFA Program of Activities Guidance

Update 6.2016

Every FFA chapter must develop an annual program of activities (POA). The POA consists of an outline of activities planned to cover the year. The activities should be based on the interests, needs, and desires of the chapter members. The development of the POA represents a learning opportunity for members as they understand and develop skills related to project planning, completion, and evaluation. There are many POA planning forms available through the National FFA Organization to aid in the development of the annual POA.

The POA is due to the state advisor (Rebecca.wallace@k12.wa.us) electronically by November 1 of each year for the chapter to be in compliance and eligible to take part in activities at the local, district, state, and national level.

Purpose of a Program of Activities

A well-developed POA serves to:

- Define chapter goals and outline steps needed to meet those goals
- Act as a written guide to provide administrators, advisory committees, alumni, and others a calendar of events the chapter will follow in the year ahead.

A well-planned POA will:

- Ensure that chapter activities meet the needs of its members
- Provide direction from year to year
- Lead to a workable budget
- Provide experience in planning
- Serve as a reference point throughout the year

Chapter activities should provide:

- A balance of experiences inside and outside the classroom
- Opportunities for developing self-confidence, responsibility, citizenship, cooperation and leadership skills
- Authentic, engaging activities
- Relevant, educational experiences
- Accessibility for all students
- Flexibility that will allow chapters from various environments and with various levels of resources to be successful
- Multiple levels of participation and experiences
- Appropriate recognition for all participants
- Exposure to opportunities and educational experiences in food, agriculture and natural resources

Goals for Chapter Activities

Chapter activities should provide:

1. A balance of experiences inside and outside the classroom
2. Opportunities for developing self-confidence, responsibility, citizenship, cooperation and leadership skills
3. Authentic, engaging activities

4. Relevant, educational experiences
5. Accessibility for all students
6. Flexibility that will allow chapters from various environments and with various levels of resources to be successful
7. Multiple levels of participation and experiences
8. Appropriate recognition for all participants
9. Exposure to opportunities and educational experiences in food, agriculture and natural resources

The POA is

- A document which defines the chapter’s goals.
- An outline of the steps needed to meet the goals.
- A written guide that allows FFA members, administrators, alumni, advisory committee members, and others to know the course that the chapter plans to follow.
- Simply stated the POA is: A record of WHAT is going to be done, WHO is going to do it, WHEN it is going to be done, WHERE it will happen, WHY it is happening, HOW it will be done, and HOW MUCH it is going to cost (budget).

Acceptable POA Formats in Washington

1. Washington POA form – available via washingtonffa.org
2. AET generated POA form – available through AET subscription
3. National Chapter Form 3 **and** POA Planning forms – National FFA

POAs are due on an annual basis by Nov. 1 of each year. Chapters that do not have a roster uploaded, dues paid, and an annual POA are out of compliance. Students may be at risk to be disqualified for involvement, awards, and scholarship opportunities at the local, district, state and national level until the chapter is brought into good standing.

PROGRAM OF ACTIVITIES QUALITY STANDARDS
Growing Leaders
<p><u>Leadership:</u> Activities that help the individual develop technical, human relations and decision-making skills to grow leaders</p> <p><i>Example Activities: Leadership conferences, public speaking experiences, team demonstrations, team and individual leadership competitions, new member mentor program, state leadership camps, chapter officer leadership trainings, hosting international students, 212 and 360 conferences, Washington Leadership Conference, state and national conferences</i></p>
<p><u>Healthy Lifestyle:</u> Activities that promote the well-being of students mentally or physically in achieving the positive evolution of the whole person</p> <p><i>Example Activities: Substance abuse prevention and education, personal wellness choices and consequences, personal image projection, diversity/inclusion programs, recreation/leisure activities</i></p>
<p><u>Scholarship:</u> Activities that develop a positive attitude toward lifelong learning experiences.</p> <p><i>Example Activities: Scholarship awards, tutoring, elementary reading programs, school and college tours, FFA scholarships, leadership conference scholarships, study skills seminars for members, chapter/school honor roll and recognition for students across school departments, academic mentoring</i></p>
<p><u>Personal Growth:</u> Activities conducted that improve the identity and self-awareness of members. These activities should reflect members’ unique talents and potential by reinforcing their human and employability skills. The activities should strive to enhance the quality of life and contribute to members’ life goals and development.</p> <p><i>Example Activities: Time management activities, self-help workshops, facing your fears, money management, financial planning, anti-bullying, diversity/inclusion programs, personal organization skills, member degrees</i></p>
<p><u>Career Success:</u> Activities that promote student involvement and growth through agriculture-related experiences and/or entrepreneurship and promote career readiness.</p> <p><i>Example Activities: News stories, career day, guest speakers, displays of exemplary programs, facility tours, mentor programs, international seminars, shadow experiences, agricultural skills and judging events, test plots for the school agriculture department, agriscience fairs, science fairs for elementary students, computer literacy activities, SAE tours, SAE fairs</i></p>

Building Communities
<p>Environmental Activities conducted to preserve natural resources and develop more environmentally responsible individuals.</p> <p><i>Example Activities:</i> Urban and rural conservation programs, collaborative efforts to raise game for release/biological control, water and air quality programs, green practices, provide water testing, recycling programs, National FFA Living to Serve Grants</p>
<p>Human Resources Activities conducted to improve the welfare and well-being of members and citizens of the community.</p> <p><i>Example Activities:</i> PALS (Partners in Active Learning Support), special populations involvement, at-risk programs, cultural awareness and diversity programs, provide an after school program for younger children, setup a community garden, food/ toy drives, National FFA Living to Serve Grants, Farm to School Initiative</p>
<p>Citizenship Activities conducted to encourage members to become active, involved citizens of their school, community and country.</p> <p><i>Example Activities:</i> Volunteerism, community service, civic duties, internships with government agencies, roadside/area cleanup, legislative breakfasts, work with local chamber of commerce, organize a charity concert, networking with governmental agencies</p>
<p>Stakeholder Engagement: Activities conducted to develop teamwork and cooperation between the local chapter and stakeholders.</p> <p><i>Example Activities</i> Working with another entity to strengthen agriculture – for example, Corn Growers, Young Farmers, Farm Bureau, Farmers Union, Grange, chambers of commerce, service clubs, extension, fair boards, local advisory committee, parent-teacher organization participation, etc. (Cannot include alumni or boosters.)</p>
<p>Economic Development: Activities conducted to improve the economic welfare of the community.</p> <p><i>Example Activities</i> Member entrepreneurship, community scavenger hunt, enhanced tourism, international development, historical preservation and community relations, SAE economic impact</p>
Strengthening Agriculture
<p>Support Group: Activities conducted to develop and maintain positive relations among FFA, parents and community leaders interested in supporting agricultural education.</p> <p><i>Example Activities:</i> Any activities with FFA Alumni, agriculture boosters or other organized groups dedicated to supporting active FFA chapters</p>
<p>Chapter Recruitment: Activities conducted to increase agricultural education enrollment and/or FFA membership and encourage greater participation.</p> <p><i>Example Activities:</i> Career class visits, agricultural demonstrations, visits to lower grades, program information mailings, petting zoos, member barbeques, National FFA Week exhibits, new member picnics, camping and fishing trips, create a mentor program for new members, a complimentary subscription to FFA New Horizons magazine</p>
<p>Safety: Activities that enhance safety in the community.</p> <p><i>Example Activities:</i> Firearm safety programs, ATV safety, equipment operation safety, mock crashes, general farm safety, texting and driving campaigns, safe animal handling demonstrations, pesticide application safety awareness activities, producer and consumer safety programs, personal safety programs</p>
<p>Agricultural Advocacy: Activities conducted to articulate and promote agricultural programs, practices, policies and/or education to elicit action.</p> <p><i>Example Activities:</i> Agriculture issue presentations, National Agriculture Day activities, parent/student orientations, advocating for agricultural legislation, Teach Ag! campaigns, engaging policy makers to promote action on hunger, engage in policy supporting agricultural education as an ideal delivery method for STEM, student representation on influential agriculture boards, interacting with local media to promote agriculture and FFA, use of social media to support agricultural causes, encouraging animal welfare practices, advancements in biotechnology and technology in agriculture</p>
<p>Agricultural Literacy: Activities that help consumers become better informed about the production, distribution and daily impact of food, fiber and fuel.</p> <p><i>Example Activities:</i> Food for America, Agriculture in the Classroom, Food Checkout Day, activities centered around national food promotions (i.e. dairy month), agriculturally related educational events and/or displays, educating consumers about hunger, food cost and food safety, Our Food Link activities, Food, Land & People, partnering with local fair or festival boards to include food related educational components in events, alternative fuel education, product awareness as it relates to agriculture (i.e., clothing, medicines, paper, etc.)</p>