

Senior Creed Speaking Career Development Event

Creed Speaking is an opportunity for junior and senior FFA members designed to develop public speaking skills and to foster understanding of the organization's beliefs and values. There are two levels of competition for Creed Speaking. Junior Creed Speaking is available to students in grades 6-9 who are National FFA members. This competition exists on district, sub-state, state and national levels. Senior Creed Speaking is available to students in grades 10-12 who are National FFA members and first year FFA members.

EVENT RULES

1. There are TWO divisions of the Creed Speaking Event. Senior Creed is for 1st year students in 10th, 11th and 12th grades. This division is only recognized by New York State. The State winner does not advance to the national level. The National FFA Creed Speaking Career Development Event is for students in grades 6, 7, 8 or 9. Once a student has won this competition they are ineligible to compete again.
2. It is highly recommended that participants be in official FFA dress in each event. **IMPORTANT NOTE-** Please thoroughly read the Introduction Section at the beginning of this handbook for complete rules and procedures that are relevant to all New York FFA Career Development Events.
3. Copies of the rules and score sheet will be available to participants in advance of the district, substate and state event. Three to eight competent and impartial persons will be selected to judge this event by the coordinator of the competitive forum.
4. The New York FFA Association state staff members are responsible for the management of this event. Please direct any clarification questions to state staff.
5. A chapter can have as many competitors as they wish at a district competition. A district may advance four competitors to substate competition. A substate may advance two competitors to state competition.

EVENT FORMAT

- A. The event will include an oral presentation and answering critical thinking questions directly related to the Creed. Each participant will be asked three questions per round with a five minute total time limit. The questions used will change as the participant progresses to semifinal and final rounds of the event. The questions will be formulated annually by the Creed speaking career development event committee and will avoid two part questions. Sample questions will not be available prior to the event.**
- B. Members will present the Creed from the current year's Official FFA Manual.
- C. The event will be a timed activity with four minutes for presentation. After four minutes, the participant will be deducted 1 point for every second over set time.
- D. The national event will be conducted in three rounds: preliminary (consisting of 5–8 speakers per section), semifinals (2 sections of 8 speakers each) and finals (4 participants). The top two speakers from each preliminary section will advance to the semifinals. The top two speakers from the semifinal sections will advance to the final round. No ranking will be given except for the final four. Comment cards for all participants will be distributed at the awards function.
- E. Event officials will randomly determine the speaking order. The room facilitator will introduce each participant by participant number and state association in order of the drawing. No props are to be used. Applause shall be withheld until all participants have spoken.
- F. Each participant must recite the Creed from memory. Each participant shall begin the presentation by stating, "The FFA Creed by E.M. Tiffany." Each CDE participant should end the presentation with the statement, "... that inspiring task. Thank you." Additional introductory or concluding remarks will result in accuracy deductions as indicated on the scorecard.**
- G. Participants will be held in isolation until their presentation. Participants will not be allowed to have contact with any outside persons.
- H. At the time of the event, the judges will be seated in a designated section of the room in which the event is held. They will score each participant on the delivery of the Creed, using the score sheet provided.

- I. Timekeepers will be designated to record the time used by each participant in delivering his/her speech. Content accuracy judges will record the number of recitation errors during delivery.
- J. When participants have finished the presentation and answering of questions, each judge will total the score of each speaker. The timekeepers' and accuracy judges' records will be used in computing the final score for each participant. The judges' score sheets will then be submitted to event officials to determine final ratings of participants.
- K. Participants will be ranked in numerical order on the basis of the final score to be determined by each judge without consultation. The judges' ranking of each participant then will be added, and the winner will be that participant whose total ranking is the lowest. Other placings will be determined in the same manner (low point score method of selection).
- L. During preliminary and semifinal rounds, recording of presentations is permitted by one person from each participant's association for that participant only.

Participants shall be ranked in numerical order on the basis of the final score to be determined by each judge without consultation. The judges' ranking of each participant then shall be added, and the winner will be that participant whose total ranking is the lowest. Other placings will be determined in the same manner (low point score method of selection).

Tiebreakers

Ties will be broken based on the greatest number of low ranks. Participant's low ranks will be counted and the participant with the greatest number of low ranks will be declared the winner. If a tie still exists, then the event superintendent will rank the participant's response to questions. The participant with the greatest number of low ranks from the response to questions will be declared the winner. If a tie still exists then the participant's raw scores will be totaled. The participant with the greatest total of raw points will be declared the winner.

The FFA Creed

I believe in the future of agriculture, with a faith born not of words but of deeds—achievements won by the present and past generations of agriculturists; in the promise of better days through better ways, even as the better things we now enjoy have come to us from the struggles of former years.

I believe that to live and work on a good farm, or to be engaged in other agricultural pursuits, is pleasant as well as challenging; for I know the joys and discomforts of agricultural life and hold an inborn fondness for those associations which, even in hours of discouragement, I cannot deny.

I believe in leadership from ourselves and respect from others. I believe in my own ability to work efficiently and think clearly, with such knowledge and skill as I can secure, and in the ability of progressive agriculturists to serve our own and the public interest in producing and marketing the product of our toil.

I believe in less dependence on begging and more power in bargaining; in the life abundant and enough honest wealth to help make it so—for others as well as myself; in less need for charity and more of it when needed; in being happy myself and playing square with those whose happiness depends upon me.

I believe that American agriculture can and will hold true to the best traditions of our national life and that I can exert an influence in my home and community which will stand solid for my part in that inspiring task.

The Creed was written by E. M. Tiffany, and adopted at the 3rd National Convention of the FFA.
Revised at the 38th Convention.
Revised at the 63rd Convention

