

HOW TO CREATE A POWERFUL POA

THE FIVE FFA ADVISORS WHO REPRESENT THE 2019 NATIONAL CHAPTER AWARD WINNERS SHARE THEIR SECRETS TO A SUCCESSFUL PROGRAM OF ACTIVITIES (POA).

“Our committee members come up with all kinds of ideas that would work for different quality standards. We like to keep it that way so we can cover a lot of areas with a lot of activities that interest a wide variety of students.”

April Davis, Commerce Middle School FFA (Georgia),
Middle School Model of Excellence

“The Waterloo FFA leadership team uses the FFA quality indicators as a starting point to brainstorm and select activities that will be beneficial for our chapter, school and community.”

Tim McDermott, Waterloo FFA (Illinois),
National Premier Chapter, Growing Leaders

“Our success is driven by our students. Our chapter officers lead in planning our POA, but their insight comes from close relationships with our entire membership. Small groups led by each officer allow members to share input about our activities and goals throughout the year.”

Mason Jones, Edmond FFA (Oklahoma),
National Premier Chapter,
Strengthening Agriculture

“The secret to developing a successful POA for our chapter revolves around three keywords: quality, pride and tradition. We strive to plan, organize, develop and execute activities that are of utmost value that our members and stakeholders appreciate.”

Rob Calvin, Troy FFA (Missouri),
National Premier Chapter, Building Communities

“ADAPT AND CONQUER WAS A FAVORITE QUOTE OF MY FATHER, WHO WAS MY FFA ADVISOR. THIS HAS IMPACTED OUR SUCCESS BECAUSE I TEACH MY FFA MEMBERS TO MAKE PLANS, YET BE WILLING TO CHANGE AS NEEDED.”

Jessica Helsing,
Covington-UVCC
FFA (Ohio),
Model of Excellence

For more information about POAs, visit the National Chapter Awards webpage on **FFA.org**. Click on the “Resources” button to access the 2018 National Chapter Awards Finalist Recognition and Resource Guide.

MAKING BLACK HISTORY MONTH MEMORABLE

GEORGIA FFA CHAPTER CELEBRATES AFRICAN-AMERICANS IN ENGAGING WAYS.

Americans observe Black History Month every February. The Eagle’s Landing FFA Chapter in McDonough, Ga., knows how to make it memorable. The majority (about 85 percent) of the chapter’s 140 members are African-American, and they pay tribute to their history every year in a variety of ways.

They have found inspiration in the work of Dr. George Washington Carver, and they’ve participated in door decorating and display case contests, food presentations and more ways to honor his inventions.

“We have also featured Helen Dubose, owner of

Healing Acres Blueberry Farm, located in our own city,” says Chansi Coleman, agriscience teacher and FFA advisor at Eagle’s Landing High School. “Dubose was noted as the first African-American to receive a degree in agriculture.”

Each year, Eagle’s Landing FFA hosts guest speakers to highlight minorities in agricultural careers, including a local beef cattle farmer, an attorney who works to protect farmers’ land and a food science researcher for Kraft Foods. The chapter also maintains a garden where the members grow vegetables, which they later cook and eat together.

Eagle’s Landing FFA has a social media presence, too, and Coleman says when other chapters see their name, they come to know that Eagle’s Landing FFA operates a bit differently.

“We move with a little rhythm and sound. If we’re not rapping about the FFA Creed or motto, we’re acting out photosynthesis or doing a poem with jazz music for plant identification,” she says. “It’s all about tailoring agriculture to them and promoting it as an amazing industry for future careers or giving them leadership experience while celebrating them as culturally diverse kids.”

— By Jessica Mozo



Eagle’s Landing FFA members prepare food and eat together to celebrate Black History Month.

