



Legislative Advocacy Handbook



NATIONAL
FFA ORGANIZATION

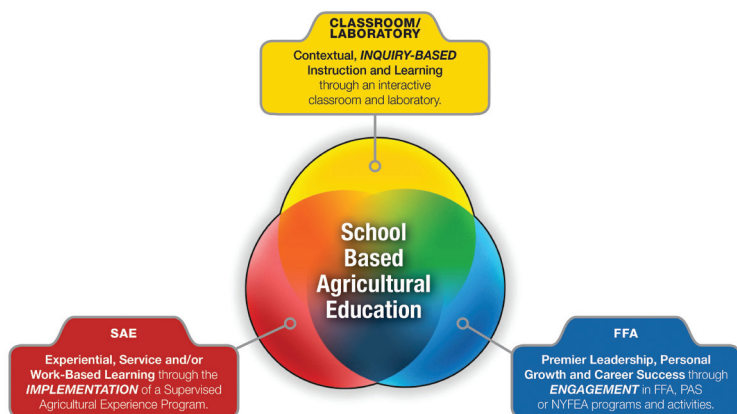
Now, more than ever, agriculture needs strong advocates. You are the generation that will communicate our industry's leadership in science, innovation and solving global problems.

FFA MISSION

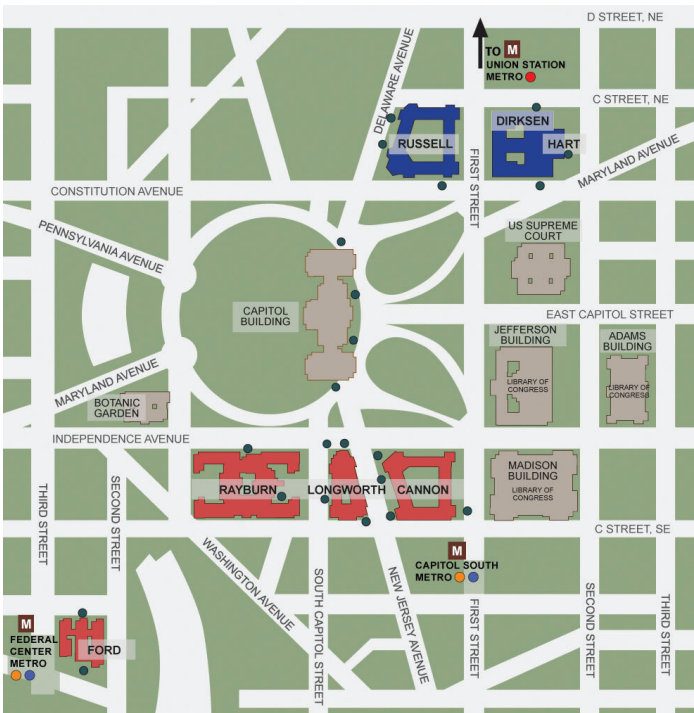
FFA makes a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth, and career success through agricultural education.

FFA VISION

Students whose lives are impacted by FFA and agricultural education will achieve academic and personal growth, strengthen American agriculture, and provide leadership to build healthy local communities, a strong nation, and a sustainable world.



HOW TO GET **THERE**



- **House office building** (Rayburn, Longworth, Cannon, Ford)
- **Senate office building** (Russell, Dirksen, Hart)
- **Building entrances**
- M **Metro station**
- Red line ● Blue line ● Orange line



GUIDE TO MEETING WITH YOUR LEGISLATOR

Preparing for the meeting:

- Make an appointment with your legislative office in advance.
- Identify your main message and determine roles for participants.
- Prepare and practice for the meetings.

During the meeting:

- Introduce yourself to the legislator or staff member you are meeting.
- Take the initiative and be confident.
- Make a local connection and follow “asks” with a story.
- Ask direct and focused questions to stay on topic.
- Thank the legislator or staffer.

Following the meeting:

- Write down your impressions and notes.
- Promptly follow up with any requested information.
- Send a written thank you note.



TIPS

- Silence your cellphone.
- Bring business cards and/or a leave-behind document.
- Be prompt to all appointments.
- Allow for time to go through security.
- If you don't know the answer to a question, let the person know you will find out and get back to him/her.
- Be familiar with your legislator and his/her background prior to meeting.
- Follow your legislator on social media.
- Do not engage in partisan critiques.



CAREERS

_____ careers
in agriculture globally

MEMBERSHIP

_____ students
are members of the National FFA Organization
_____ % Male _____ % Female

_____ local FFA
chapters in the US, Puerto Rico, and U.S. Virgin Islands

_____ % Urban _____ % Suburban _____ % Rural

_____ active FFA Alumni.

KEY MESSAGING NOTES



LEGISLATIVE VISIT INFORMATION

Legislator name: _____

Office building/room number: _____

Scheduled time: _____

Contact information: _____

Notes:

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Office building/room number: _____

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Contact information: _____

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Notes:

WHO ARE WE?

The National FFA Organization is a national youth organization comprised of student members who are part of local FFA chapters in all 50 states, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The FFA mission is to make a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education. The National FFA Organization operates under a federal charter granted by the 81st United States Congress, and it is an integral part of public instruction in agriculture. The U.S. Department of Education provides leadership and helps set direction for FFA as a service to state and local agricultural education programs. For more, visit the National FFA Organization online at FFA.org, on Facebook, Twitter and the official National FFA Organization blog.

CONTACT US

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National FFA Center

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Visit FFA.org/literacy-and-advocacy for more information.

THE AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION MISSION

Agricultural education prepares students for successful careers and a lifetime of informed choices in the global agriculture, food, fiber and natural resources systems.

The National FFA Organization affirms its belief in the value of all human beings and seeks diversity in its membership, leadership and staff as an equal opportunity employer.



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