



NEW MEXICO FFA

OPENING~CLOSING CEREMONIES

Leadership Development Event

NEW MEXICO FFA OPENING AND CLOSING CEREMONIES

Revised: 09/06/2025

Purpose

The purpose of this CDE is to develop public speaking skills, promote the proper presentation and delivery of Official FFA Opening and Closing Ceremonies as outlined by the official FFA manual, and to promote the proper identity and standards of Official Dress as outlined by the official FFA manual.

Common Core References:

7th Grade:

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.7.1b Follow rules for collegial discussions, track progress toward specific goals and deadlines, and define individual roles as needed.

8th Grade:

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.7.7 Compare and contrast a text to an audio, video, or multimedia version of the text, analyzing each medium's portrayal of the subject (e.g., how the delivery of a speech affects the impact of the words).

Format of Event

1. Each team will be composed of seven active members who may not be past their eighth-grade year in school. Each team will consist of a President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Reporter, Sentinel, and Student Advisor. One Team per Chapter.
2. All team members will be in official dress, according to the Official FFA Manual.

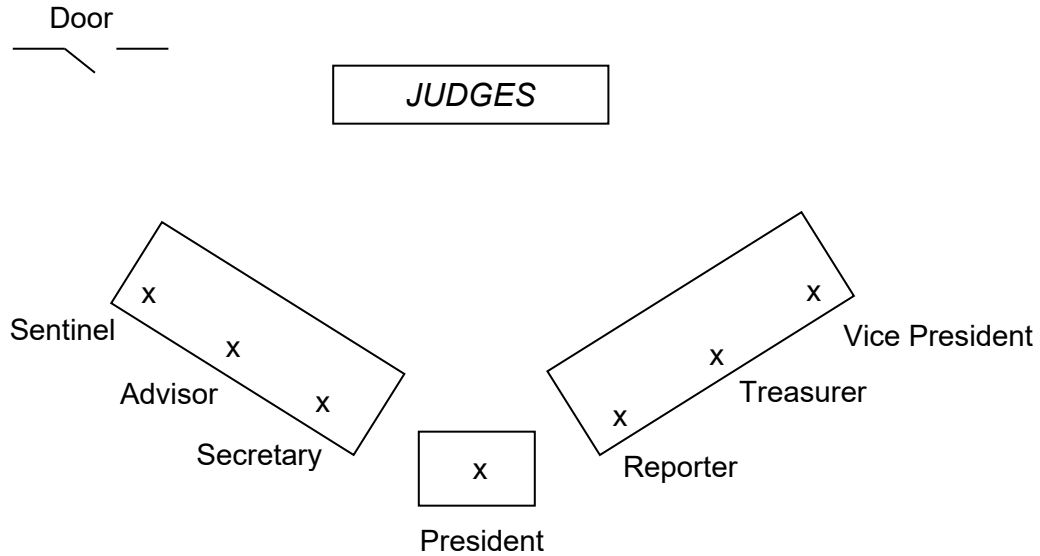
Official Dress Items
1. Black dress shoes with closed toe and heel
2. Black socks/hosiery
3. Black slacks/Skirt
4. White collared shirt/Blouse
5. Official FFA tie/scarf
6. Official FFA Jacket zipped to top

***NOTE: Official garb or recognized religions may be worn with Official Dress**

Attention: Skirt is to be at least knee length, hemmed evenly across the bottom, with a slit no longer than 2 inches above the knee, excluding the kick pleat. Black slacks may be appropriate for traveling and outdoor activities.

- The sentinel will be required to arrange the paraphernalia for the meeting (refer to the Official Manual). This will be done prior to other team members proceeding to their stations. The event Superintendent will designate the front of the room to the sentinel.

ROOM SET-UP



- After members enter the room, the President will seat the members and begin the presentation.
- At the conclusion of the Opening Ceremonies a motion to Adjourn shall be made by any member. The motion is to be seconded and voted on by general consent or majority vote. This will be the transition into the Closing Ceremonies.
- Each officer will be asked one question regarding the duties of their position as defined in the official FFA manual (5 pts. each)
- At the conclusion of the ceremony and while all members are present, the sentinel will place all meeting paraphernalia on the storage table.
- A panel of three judges will have the final decision on placing. **When possible, one judge will be a middle school teacher.**
- The State Opening/Closing Ceremonies CDE shall be held with all other Middle School Leadership CDEs at NMLC.
- Three chapters from each district will advance to the state competition.

Scoring

Official Dress: 126 pts

3 pts per item per member – 21 points max per team

Official Dress must be followed exactly as stated by the official FFA manual.

1 pt may be deducted for each of the following infractions per participant:

- Skirts that are the correct length but not straight
- Black jeans
- Black Boots
- Open toed or opened heeled, but not both, shoes.
- No Official blue tie or scarf.

Stage Presence: 105pts

Will be assessed on the student's unrehearsed presentation in front of a group including personality, ease before the audience, poise, posture and response time to the gavel.

Stage Presence – eye contact, poise, mannerisms

- Low Range – 0-5 points
- Mid Range – 6-10 points
- High Range – 11-15 points

Voice: 105 pts

Will be assessed on the student's articulation, pronunciation, tone, and ability to speak without hesitation.

Voice – volume, tone, pace

- Low Range – 0-5 points
- Mid Range – 6-10 points
- High Range – 11-15 points

Participation: 49pts

Will be assessed on the student involvement in conducting the motion and their focus on the team's presentation.

Participation – involvement in the presentation (standing in unison, etc), team engagement (everyone on task), and participation in the pledge

- Low Range – 0-2 points
- Mid Range – 3-5 points
- High Range – 6-7 points

Conclusion: 30 pts

Will be assessed based on the student involvement in the closing ceremonies including the recitation of the pledge of allegiance.

Conclusion – motion to adjourn made and seconded by a member, vote take or passed by general consent, and transition to Closing Ceremonies

- Low Range – 0-1 points
- Mid Range – 2-3 points
- High Range – 4-5 points

Questions: 35 pts

Based upon officer descriptions in the official FFA manual.

Questions – points based on accuracy of answer, 10 points

- 0 points for no answers, IDK, or incorrect answer
- 5 for partially correct answer (missing information)
- 10 points for correct answer

Accuracy:

1pt will be subtracted for every word omitted or added during each officer's part.

President Skill and ability to preside.

Skill and Ability of Presiding Officer – proper use of the gavel, ability to handle motion and directing the members throughout the presentation.

- Low Range – 0-8 points
- Mid Range – 9-16 points
- High Range – 17-25 points

Sentinel Meeting Room Set-up/Take-down: 20 pts.

Will be assessed based on the Sentinels ability to accurately and efficiently set up and take down the paraphernalia and meeting room.

- 1 point per item correctly placed, 8 points
- 1 point per item returned to central location, 8 points
- Chairs Pushed in, 7 points

Ties will be broken by highest category score in this order:

1. Total Team Accuracy
2. Total Team Stage Presence
3. Total Team Participation
4. Total Team Voice
5. Total Team Conclusion

See official Scorecard for detailed breakdown of all points.

Reference

Current year's Official FFA Manual

(All changes to Official FFA dress, and or Opening/ Closing ceremonies reflected in the official FFA manual will be applied immediately to this contest.)