

Dear North Region Teachers,

We are excited to announce that this year's North Region community service project will be a benefit drive for The Sparrows Nest, a christian ministry center located in Athens, GA. Their mission is to seek to change lives through the power of God and nurturing relationships. By creatively meeting the needs of a population at risk, they build trust, which is the doorway to hope and transformation.

The Sparrow's Nest is centrally located on a busy downtown street in Athens, Ga, a town with one of the largest homeless populations in Georgia. The facility includes meeting and dining rooms, laundry and shower facilities, and space to organize and distribute clothing and food. The Sparrow's Nest is a place where those in need can find help in a Christ-centered environment – a hot meal or a bag of groceries shared in love; showers and laundry facilities for the homeless; donated clothing for the needy, and vibrant ministries to at-risk children and youth. Christians and churches from across the community are able to get involved in a variety of ways. Individuals can volunteer on an occasional or regular basis. Church groups can prepare and serve a meal and interact with those who come in a safe environment. The Sparrow's Nest offers opportunities to serve, to donate, and to share love and hope in both word and deed.

The North Region Area Officer teams have come together this year and developed a challenge for all the chapters in Area I and Area II. We are asking each chapter to bring at least one box of the items that are on the attached list. Items donated should be brought to The North Region Rally on September 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>, and turned into the Area Officers that will be stationed at the donation center. Any chapter that brings items for our care packages will then have a picture taken with their donations. The Area Officer Teams will follow up with a press release article that can be submitted to your local newspaper. This is also a great project for students to use to gain more community service hours for their State degrees and other FFA awards.

The items collected for this year's community service project will be collected at the 2018 North Region Rally (September 6<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>). A list of items to be donated for this years' service project will be sent with an informational flyer for your classroom. The winner will be determined by adding the weight of the socks and underwear to half the weight of the hygiene items. For example, if your chapter brings 40 pounds of hygiene items and 35 pounds of socks and underwear, then the final weight will be 55 pounds. We look forward to each of you participating and seeing how much we can collect to donate to an organization that is making a difference in the homeless community of Athens.

We hope that you and your chapter are excited to help such a great cause! Good luck!

Area 1 and 2 FFA Officers

