



# 2024 State Officer Candidates

## “Why I Want to Serve” Statements

### South Region



**Jaxsen Guthrie**  
Coffee County

I want to serve as a state officer because I want to experience as many FFA members, chapters, and events as possible. Since joining FFA, I have fallen in love with the organization and the people. Some of my closest friends and fondest memories are in FFA. I know that the more involved I become, the more I will get out of this organization. I want to meet FFA members and learn their unique stories. Each story is special. FFA has allowed me to become a better leader and person. Anything I do to give back will be worth it!

“Belonging.” Throughout my years in FFA, I have felt I truly belong. This sense of belonging stems from the leaders I have encountered in my path in FFA. They have instilled a sense of passion while showing me the endless opportunities within FFA. These leaders led me to feel there was somewhere I belonged. Somewhere I could use my agricultural skills to lead, somewhere kids encourage other kids to strive for excellence daily. The sense of belonging propels me to run for Georgia FFA state office to be that spark of encouragement along someone else’s path.



**Harrison Russ**  
Citizens Christian Academy



**Carson Lynn**  
Bainbridge

Servant, leadership, passion, and the future of FFA are reasons why I would like to serve a state officer for the Georgia FFA Association. As a state officer, I can invest the leadership skills I have learned in the blue jacket into action and pass those skills down to future generations. My passion for this organization and industry has been my driving force for a state officer position. I see potential and future of this organization, and I want to have a lasting impact on current and future FFA members in Georgia.



**John Haven Stalvey**  
Berrien County

I look forward to working with you as your Georgia FFA state officer to continue advancing agriculture and agriculture education in order to ensure our organization continues to thrive as the premier student-led organization and remains viable for generations to come. Serving as your FFA state officer will provide me with an incredible platform and opportunity to advocate for Georgia agriculture and promote our industry as a sustainable and essential practice in the state economy, and welfare. This is in hopes of providing a quality livelihood for all who are and will become part of our agricultural community.

## Central Region

The reason I want to be your next state officer is because I want to inspire and encourage all of you with the passion that this amazing organization has instilled in me. I wouldn't be the strong leader I am today, or have the drive to help others if it wasn't for the inspirational people I have met through my FFA journey. I hope that I can use my own experiences in FFA, to inspire others to become the best versions of themselves through the chapter, area, and state level of this organization.



**Kaylie Brown**  
Southeast Bulloch



**Emma Lawrence**  
ECI

Since 1929, thousands of FFA members have probably worn their FFA jackets representing our great state. With the deep-rooted traditions of leadership in Georgia FFA, it would be an honor to serve as a state FFA officer to carry on this legacy, as well as to help be a visionary for the future. I want to encourage fellow members, and help them find their place in our organization, just as others have helped me grow. I believe Georgia FFA is a family and it would be a privilege to assist and celebrate our members as they radiate success.

I want to serve on the state officer team because I want to help Georgia FFA members become the best version of themselves. I will do this through encouraging students, having personal relationships with each member, and being there for the good, the bad, and the ugly. We all are different, and I believe we can come together and use our different talents for the greater good. I want to give others the amazing experience FFA has given me, and radiate Georgia FFA and agriculture. I will give my all when serving as a state officer.



**James McNeal**  
Perry



**Brayden Papp**  
Effingham County

**Agriculture... Crucial yet continuously undermined. I grew up in a small, independent, determined family that pursued a passion for agriculture. I've seen the struggles, perseverance, and passion needed to succeed in the world of agriculture. The last words in the FFA motto are "living to serve" I live to serve because of the "struggles of former years", so many have dedicated themselves to. I advocate for agriculture, because the mind is wide in a world full of narrowness, because the future is the only thing promised. I strive to progress the world of agriculture, not for success, but for innovation.**

**When I was in seventh grade, I saw my sister sprint on the stage at the state FFA convention when her name was called as state FFA vice president. I turned to my dad and I said, "I never want to do that." My six-year long journey of meeting other FFA members, competing in CDEs, and serving as an area and chapter officer have changed me from that scared, self-centered, seventh grader into someone who wants to serve others. I want to impact members by guiding them along their FFA journey, so maybe their lives can be changed like mine.**



**Ethan Parks**  
Bleckley County



**Sofia Piraino**  
South Effingham

**The national FFA organization greatly benefits those who choose to walk this path. However, not many students know of the wondrous opportunities and experiences available. Navigating through the ocean of other clubs and organizations can prove overwhelming, so I want to inspire others to choose FFA and live it to the fullest - to plunge right in and engage with the various competitions, conferences, and conventions that are held each year for anyone willing to take that leap. I want to serve you, Georgia, FFA, so that we can learn, grow, and look forward to the future... together.**

**I want to serve as a state officer for many reasons, starting with my passion for FFA. I want to be able to see as many blue jackets as possible. The impact of this organization is illuminating and effective, and I want everyone to see the impact it has on individuals. I want others to experience the ability to compete in CDE's or LDE's or go all the way to attending national convention. I want everyone to feel empowered through the many opportunities at hand, while also growing in an organization that has the potential for innovation, growth, and service.**



**Laney Sparks**  
Mary Persons

## North Region



**Makena Blalock**  
Sonorville

When discovering my passions, there was an undeniable calling to service. I found what allowed me to serve when joining FFA. With no background in production agriculture, I was curious how an organization rooted in agriculture could add to my passions. Through meeting a genuine friend at my first CDE, and witnessing FFA impact on members, I realize the importance of FFA in advancing agriculture and building future generations. The organization's impact continuing to meet FFA members, inspiring to serve, farmers through advocacy and others through love, is why I'm so passionate to serve as a state FFA officer.

"Be where your feet are," is a quote that got me through many challenges. I want to work for this organization and help members see that even though we all have different stories and struggles, we can come together for agriculture and be present in the moment. Georgia FFA, I am ready to serve you, grow with you, and expand with you during this year of service. The spark that shines for agriculture in me is something I want to share with all 80,000+ members of the Georgia FFA.



**Kerragen Craig**  
Stephens County



**MacKenzie Kratz**  
Denmark

When I saw Georgia State FFA officers, for the first time at the 2021 Georgia State convention, I was in awe. I loved what they did, and how they did it. I wanted to be just like them and inspire other young FFA members just like me. All I could think about was how they had the coolest job ever. As a Georgia FFA officer, I would want to have the same effect on other young FFA members, inspiring them to pursue their big dreams. I want to serve the Georgia FFA and give back to this amazing organization.

My passion for empowering and inspiring Georgia FFA members fuels my desire to serve as a state officer. Throughout my six years of involvement, I've witnessed, firsthand, the transformative, power of leadership in agricultural education. My enthusiasm for agriculture education extends beyond the classroom. Serving as a state officer would allow me to connect with members all across the state on a deeper level, promoting a sense of community and belonging. It would be a privilege to serve and collaborate with seven other dedicated state officers to advocate for over 80,000 Georgia FFA members through a year of service.



**Megan Jacobs**  
Jefferson City



80,000 members... 80,000 future leaders of the number one industry in Georgia! As an FFA member since the sixth grade, I understand and share a deep passion for the blue corduroy and what it means to be a member of FFA. I want to engage, inspire, and motivate others on their FFA journey. The leadership skills, memories, and relationships made within this organization far surpass those of any other youth organization in the world. It would be my absolute honor to serve my fellow members and Radiate my extreme passion for agriculture as a member of the 2024- 2025 state officer team.



**Leyton Morris**  
Morgan County



**Shelby Pruett**  
Jackson-Empower

Being able to serve as a Georgia FFA state officer would allow me to explore the opportunities even further within this organization. I was once asked “What is my why?” At that time, I was not able to answer. As I’ve grown in the FFA, I’ve seen firsthand the impact and influence members have on each other. I would say, my “Why” is to always be a friend for those who feel like they don’t belong, be a helping hand for those who feel lost, and be a kind soul that my future myself would be proud of.

“Why I want to serve?” I’ve been looking at this question trying to fit so much into such few words. Short answer, to be an inspiration. Meeting the right person can unlock so much within us. This happened to me with my advisor who saw so much potential within me. I want to serve as a state officer to show our FFA members they can do so much. Being able to serve my FFA family and be a part of the 2024–2025 State officer team would be the highest honor I could receive.



**Blayze Ramer**  
Alcovy

FFA has changed my life and the lives of countless others because of opportunities and experiences available through the organization. My time in FFA has allowed me to build a network of support that will serve me even after I retire my blue jacket, and the projects, experiences, and memories I have made are irreplaceable. I want to serve as a Georgia FFA state officer because I want to give back to the organization that’s giving me so much. I want to be a part of growing the next generation of leaders who will change the world.



**Mason Sorrow**  
Newton CCA

Georgia FFA, I want to serve you as a state officer because of my love for our organization and my desire to inspire others by leading by example. FFA has made it possible for me to accomplish so many of my goals, and to make so many lifelong friends. I have learned through our organization that effective leadership involves listening to others, understanding their strengths and weaknesses, and empowering them to succeed. I simply want to serve, and all I need for is FFA to continue believing in me, as it always has.



**Joshua Willingham**  
Chattooga County