



Building Alumni and Supporters Strength at the Local Level

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**Communication - the
human connection -
is the key to personal
and career success.**

Paul J. Meyer

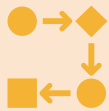
BrainyQuote®



Common Threads



Everyone will find a partner whom they do not know



You have four minutes with your partner to discover three things you have in common, but here's the twist. It can't be obvious like, we are both FFA Alumni and Supporters, we both like food or music. Try to go to a deeper level, like sharing similar values or a challenge you both have overcome. The goal is to find unexpected connections. Feel free to write down your connection in your phone notes or paper.



After four minutes, I will call for 2 volunteers to share about their partner and their connections.



Connect through the Forever Blue Network

- ForeverBlueNetwork.org
 - Jobs and Internships
 - Groups
 - States, Corporate/Local Chapters, Affinity Groups
- App
 - ios- Gradway App then choose National FFA Organization
 - Android- Forever Blue Network App
- Find **mentors** by job function, company or industry
 - Alumni can chat online with Skype or Google



Willing To Mentor Network

6,392



Impact FFA: Women Growing Women

- Group in Forever Blue Network
- Virtual and in-person events, including convention
- mentoring@ffa.org





Active Participation & Local Leadership



For the next five minutes, please come write on the tear sheets, “How your chapter has **active participation** and **local leadership**.”



Examples: Different committees, sharing activities on social media, fundraisers, officer roles, etc.



Encouraging Active Participation & Local Leadership



Invite members to share their expertise with the student chapters

Career spotlights, workshops, and demonstrating a hobby



Create volunteer committees for specific initiatives

Fundraising, community service, mentorship for student members



Encouraging Active Participation & Local Leadership

Celebrate and recognize participation

- “Volunteer of the month”, shoutouts on social media, thank-you cards, recognition at banquets or meetings

Encourage mentorship roles

- Mentor current FFA members, support CDE/LDE coaching, and help with scholarship review



Encouraging Active Participation & Local Leadership

Create pathways for long-term leadership

- Member → Committee Helper → Committee Chair → Officer → State/National Leadership Opportunities.
- When people see the path, they're more likely to grow into it.

Ask for input and give your chapter members a voice

- Quick polls, suggestion boards, “What should we tackle this year” discussions. Participation grows when members feel ownership.



Encouraging Active Participation & Local Leadership



Offer small, bite-sized leadership roles

Event coordinator for one activity, social media helper, and meeting facilitator for a single session, county fair helper



Create a welcoming, inclusive culture

Pairing new members with an active member, hosting networking or connection activities. People stay involved when they feel like they belong. Inviting school administration



Lead the Way

1. Partner up with someone you've never met.
2. Answer the following questions with each other
 - **When have you seen someone step into leadership in a small but meaningful way?**
 - **What encouraged them to get involved?**
3. Brainstorm (as a pair, write on the tear sheet **two** practical ideas your chapter could use to lead the way)



Grant Opportunities

- FFA Alumni and Supporters Grants
 - <https://www.ffa.org/alumni-and-supporters/chapter-opportunities/>
 - Due March 1, June 1 and Sept. 1 with/ a Feb. 1 grant report deadline
 - Legacy by TSC
 - \$1,000 to start or improve your chapter
 - \$2,500 to partner with students on a project
 - \$5,000 Nutrien Ag Solutions grants to fund plant science projects
- State Grants
- Local Grants
- Contacting your local TSC/Culver's
- Living to Serve Day of Service Mini Grants
 - <https://www.ffa.org/livingtoserve/grants/>
 - \$500 grants awarded each month



Award Opportunities

- Achievement Award
- Outstanding State FFA Alumni and Supporters
- Outstanding FFA Alumni and Supporters Chapter
- Outstanding Collegiate and Corporate Chapter Awards
 - <https://www.ffa.org/alumni-and-supporters/chapter-opportunities/>

- Due July 1
- Recognized at the alumni and supporters awards luncheon and finalists during the 3rd general session w/ the winner receiving a Shop FFA gift card





Building Sustainable Engagement

- Program of Activities
 - Communication
 - Regular meetings, virtual option
 - Meeting agenda
 - Time limits
 - Minutes, budgets
 - Chapter profile updates
 - EIN, W9, Constitution, Bylaws, Leaders, Roster
 - Tracking volunteer activity
 - # volunteers, # hours, \$ raised
 - Less Time, More Impact
- Resources:
<https://ffa.app.box.com/v/AlumniResources/folder/49893614854>



National FFA Week!



National FFA WEEK

FEBRUARY 21-28, 2026

SATURDAY: Happy National FFA Week!

SUNDAY: SAE Sunday

MONDAY: National Days of Service

TUESDAY: FFA Alumni Day

WEDNESDAY: Ag Teacher Appreciation Day

THURSDAY: Give FFA Day

FRIDAY: National Wear Blue Day

SATURDAY: National FFA Week Ends

Share your stories! | @NationalFFA | #FFAWeek | #FFAAlumni | #GiveFFADay



- **Sunday—SAE Sunday:** Members and alumni are encouraged to post about their SAE projects.
 - [SAE Stories from FFA New Horizons and FFA in the USA](#)
- **Monday—Day of Service:** Share FFA service projects that you find inspirational. Nothing demonstrates our members' impact better than seeing them doing good works in their communities.
 - [Living to Serve Archive](#) Plenty of great service projects for you to share.
- **Tuesday—Alumni Day:** Share stories of FFA alumni or, if you are an alum, share a post about your FFA experience and what it meant to you.
 - [FFA Alumni Archive](#)
- **Wednesday—Advisor Appreciation Day:** It's one of our most active days on social media. Pay tribute to your FFA Advisor, or one you know.
 - [Stories about FFA Advisors](#)
- **Thursday—Give FFA Day**
 - [Give FFA DAY Toolkit](#)
 - [Stories From FFA in the USA Reporters](#)
- **Friday—Wear Blue Day:** Show your FFA pride!



Together, We Grow Stronger

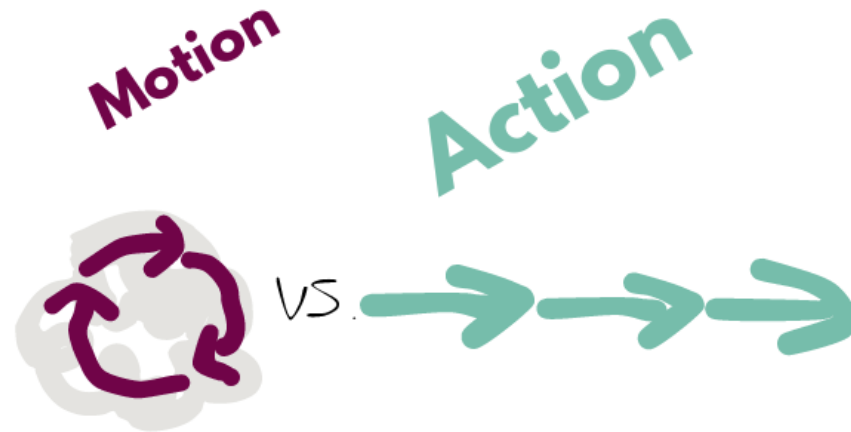
- Stronger relationships = stronger communities
- Foster Collaboration
- Strengthen Connections
- Build Local Leadership
- Align Around Clear Goals





One Action Forward

- What is one small action I can take in the next 30 days to help my chapter grow stronger?





Questions

FFA.org/alumni
alumni@ffa.org