



KANSAS
FFA ASSOCIATION

State Officer Application

Mason Lee Springer (Mason)
Neodesha FFA Chapter



Educational Background and Status

High School

Neodesha High School

Chapter Name

Neodesha

Chapter Number

124

Number in High School Class

44

Your Rank in High School Class

1

Semesters of Agricultural Education Completed

9

Years in FFA

4

In what level of education are you currently enrolled?

High School

If you will be enrolled in post-secondary education following election to state office, where will you be attending?

Kansas State University

Anticipated College Major

Agriculture Economics

Career Objective

Enter a partnership with my dad and grandpa on the family hog and crop operation.

FFA and Agriculture Education Experience

Supervised Agriculture Experience Program and Scope

In my Swing Production SAE, I work for Springer Family Foods, a third generation family owned hog operation, that sells 90,000 market hogs annually, holding approximately 50,000 at a time.

In my Beef Production SAE, I cooperatively own 45 commercial cow-calf pairs with my brother. I also have a small show steer and heifer operation.

In my Crop Production SAE, I work for Sycamore Valley Fertilizer, 7,000 family owned crop operation. I also rent 70 acres of crop ground.

Maximum of 500 characters

FFA Leadership Experience: (Office/Committee Assignment, Organization/Group, Year Held) - List up to 5

Chapter President, Neodesha FFA Chapter, 2 years (2022-2024)

Chapter Reporter, Neodesha FFA Chapter, 1 year (2021-2022)

Day on the Farm Committee Chair, Neodesha FFA Chapter, 4 years (2020-2024)

Neodesha Speech Invitational Committee Chair, Neodesha FFA Chapter, 3 years (2021-2024)

Chapter Banquet Committee Chair, Neodesha FFA Chapter, 3 years (2021-2024)

Example: Chapter Vice President, Blue and Gold FFA Chapter, 1 year (2019-2020)

FFA Activities: (Chapter, District or National Events; CDEs; LDEs; Leadership Programs; and other FFA sponsored activities) - List up to 10

Prepared Public Speaking LDE - 4 years

Parliamentary Procedure LDE - 4 years

Ritual Demonstration LDE - 3 years

Discussion Meet LDE - 2 years

Livestock Judging CDE - 4 years

Meat Evaluation CDE - 4 years

Land Judging CDE - 2 years

National Convention - 1 year

State Convention - 3 years

Washington Leadership Conference - 1 year

Examples: Livestock Judging CDE - 3 years; Leader Lab - 1 year; National Convention - 2 years

Other Leadership and Service Activities: (Community, School, 4-H, Church, Sports, Clubs, etc.) - List up to 10

Football Team - 4 years

Basketball Team - 4 years

Track Team - 4 years

Powerlifting - 4 years

FCCLA - Member (4 years), Chapter President (1 year)

National Honors Society - Member (3 years), Chapter Vice President (1 year)

Student Council - Member (3 years), Club Secretary (2 years)

Student Government - Class President (3 years)

Lucky Horseshoe 4-H Club - Member (12 years), President (3 years), Secretary (2 years), Reporter (1 year)

Cornerstone Christian Church - Volunteer (2 years)

Examples: Football Team - 4 years; CYO - 2 years; 4-H - Member (10 years), Club President (2 years)

Essay Questions

What is your biggest accomplishment up until now? How has it shaped you and your leadership style?

My greatest accomplishment to date was getting my dad to allow me to play football. Before the start of my eighth-grade year, I was getting pushed by the school football coaches and football players my age to go out for football. I wasn't allowed to go out for football, as my dad was worried that I would sustain significant head injuries. Throughout the summer, I started to devise a plan to change my dad's mind about playing football. I created a PowerPoint presentation with handouts to present to both of my parents. I presented my side to my parents, and even after a well-thought-through presentation, I was still turned down by my father. After a few days of thinking, he finally changed his mind and allowed me to play football. I've been very successful during my football career, lettering in football for all four years of high school, as well as earning all-league and state honors during my junior and senior years. Football has been a staple of my high school career, and it wouldn't have been possible without my dad allowing me to play.

This experience has helped me become a better advocate for myself and others. Just having these discussions with my dad about playing football helped me speak up about what I believe, as well as being a better active listener. Being allowed to play football also pushed me to give 100% to the sport, knowing that if I slacked off or did not give effort, my dad could quickly force me to quit the team. I have used this work ethic trait in my FFA career, working my hardest to prepare for contests and other chapter activities. Lastly, I have learned how to be organized and multi-task. While playing football, I also had my own cattle herd to take care of, as my brother and I have cows calving during football season.

I have learned to become an advocating leader who listens to other's needs. Right now in a time of change in the agricultural industry, I have grown to become an advocate for the industry, while also listening to others opinions and views. Whether it is playing a football game with my teammates or planning activities on the FFA officer team, I have become a better teammate, which I have applied to my leadership style. Lastly, through my experience with my dad, I can communicate with other FFA members or kids who struggle with having tough conversations that need to be talked about, like running for an office, attending National Convention, or even joining the great organization we call FFA.

2500 character limit

If elected, how would you positively influence the Kansas FFA Association?

Rosalynn Carter once said, "A leader takes people where they want to go. A great leader takes people where they don't necessarily want to go, but ought to be." As an active member and current President of the Neodesha FFA chapter, I have firsthand witnessed the impact that FFA has had on all past, current, and even future members. As a State FFA Officer, I would strive to positively influence the Kansas FFA Association, focusing on several key areas.

As a State FFA Officer, I will be an advocate for the agriculture industry, using my personal life as a catalyst for my plans. Growing up on a third-generation family-owned commercial hog operation, selling nearly 90,000 market hogs annually, I have grown to be an advocate for not just the swine industry, but also larger-scale family farms that have multiple components to their business. Applying my personal life growing up on a family farm will allow me to be an advocate for agriculture, from a small family farm to a large corporation level.

The FFA organization has become a very diverse program. There is something for everyone in FFA, one thing that is specific to this great organization that is not stressed enough. During my time as a State

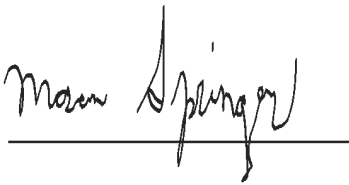
Officer, I will make sure that all members, regardless of background or identity, are able to access everything that FFA has to offer. This will not only get current members more active but will increase membership across the state, making the Kansas FFA Association greater than ever before.

There are three parts to the agriculture education system: FFA Leadership, Supervised Agricultural Experience, and lastly, Classroom Instruction. Educating young current and future members of the FFA about what all agriculture has to offer is not just crucial for the FFA association, but also for the future of the agriculture industry. Serving as a State Officer, I will be not just an advocate for agriculture, but also an educator. I will support initiatives to expand access to agricultural education, promote hands-on learning experiences, and engage students in the importance of agriculture to their communities and the world.

In conclusion, I will work my hardest for this association if chosen for a State FFA Office. I will advocate for the agriculture industry everywhere I go while staying true to my roots. I will make sure every FFA member has an opportunity within this organization. Lastly, I will educate students about agriculture and its positive impact on the world.

2500 character limit

Signature of State Officer Candidate

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mason Springer". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a solid horizontal line.

Use your mouse or finger to draw your signature above