



KANSAS
FFA ASSOCIATION

State Officer Application

Zoe Lynn Rhodes (Zoe)
Girard FFA Chapter



Educational Background and Status

High School

Girard High School

Chapter Name

Girard

Chapter Number

KS0059

Number in High School Class

89

Your Rank in High School Class

41

Semesters of Agricultural Education Completed

8

Years in FFA

4

In what level of education are you currently enrolled?

College/University

What college or university are you currently attending?

Kansas State University

Current College Major

Agricultural Education

Career Objective

Secondary Education in Ag, Ag & Educational Policy, Grad School for Ag Policy Law

FFA and Agriculture Education Experience

Supervised Agriculture Experience Program and Scope

My Supervised Agriculture Experience is based in Horticulture Processing and Floral Design. In 2020, I built an 8 square-foot greenhouse to experiment with various types of flowers that thrived in a nursery. I practiced over 200 hours of floral design throughout my high school career and started creating and packing bouquets, boutonnieres, and corsages for weddings, proms, and other special occasions.

Maximum of 500 characters

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

Chapter Secretary, Girard FFA, 1 year (2021-2022)

District Reporter, Southeast KS District, 1 year (2021-2022)

Chapter President, Girard FFA, 1 year (2022-2023)

District Vice President, Southeast District KS FFA, 1 year (2022-2023)

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

National Convention - 2 years

District Officers Conference - 2 years

State FFA Food Science CDE - 2 years

State FFA Agricultural Communications CDE - 2 years

State FFA Milk Quality & Products CDE - 2 years

State FFA Extemporaneous Speech LDE - 1 year

State FFA Ag Sales CDE - 1 year

State FFA Parliamentary Procedure LDE - 1 year

Chapter Leadership Training - 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

KSU Ag Ed Club - Member (1 year) - Chapter Secretary (1 year)

KSU Agricultural Council - Honor & Integrity Committee Member (1 year)

KSU Ag Ambassador - Member (1 year)

Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) - Member (3 years) - Chapter Representative (1 year) - Chapter President (1 year)

Kansas Association for Youth (KAYs) - Member (4 years) - Chapter Secretary (1 year) - Chapter President (1 year)

National Honors Society (NHS) - Member (2 years)

Girard HS Football Manager - (4 years)

Girard HS Varsity Scholar's Bowl -(4 years)

Girard HS Track & Field - (3 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 biggest accomplishment thus far is earning first place for Business Plan Pitch at the Joplin Regional Technology Summit (JRTS) in Joplin, Missouri. I consider it my biggest accomplishment because of the way it allowed me to enjoy the process rather than the product of my achievements. In order to qualify for the JRTS, you are required to win two prior competitions in a Business Plan Pitch style or format and give a seven-minute speech on the details of your business. I revolved my business pitch around patented fertilizer made from the biomass structures of black soldier flies. After winning the two competitions prior to JRTS, I began to nurse my passion and better my understanding of the processes of my work. To prepare for the speech, I completed field research on how the biomass black soldier fly fertilizer affected the soil. This solidified the importance of the product in agriculture through a fact-based perspective and added to the validity of the project. The results were not always positive, and formulas were not always consistent, however, I persevered through each setback and kept at my studies until I created an effective product that satisfied my appetite for success. These trials and tribulations pushed me to an epiphany: the process leading up to my accomplishment was sweeter than the achievement itself. Having this difficult but rewarding experience also guided my leadership style; I learned to be adaptable and how to overcome discouragement. Possessing grit builds you the foundation for other skills such as staying levelheaded, persevering through adversity, and maintaining clarity. As the only agricultural-based business, I was very meticulous in ensuring that I was leaving a positive connotation of agriculture in the hearts and minds of the audience and judges. I also gained a deeper understanding of agricultural research from an industrial and scientific standpoint. It was important for me to think more like the consumer and what would benefit the farm to table process. The final piece that distinguished this experience from the rest were the impactful connections that I made. For example, one of my judges for JRTS happened to be the CEO of the agricultural marketing company, Agzaga. Creating meaningful connections such as that solidified the purpose of my journey through these three contests. Overall, this experience harvested a deeper understanding of agriculture and branded me into someone that leads with purpose.

2500 character limit

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

If elected to a Kansas FFA State Office, I plan to bring a diverse array of experiences and skills to the table that have the potential to positively influence our amazing organization. First and foremost, I plan to bring positivity to the team dynamic by being a team player! Through my experience of being a Southeast District Officer for two years, being a team player was one of the most important pieces to the collaboration of our team. We learned early on that power lies in harmony and not competition amongst our team members. Individually, I am diplomatic, kind, and an includer. My intrinsic motivation to run for state office is because of the connection-making and making FFA a home for everyone! I believe in making everyone feel heard and understood. My ability to acknowledge the differences in people—and use that knowledge to build them up—positively influences my everyday life by allowing me to invest in lasting connections. Establishing lasting connections is important for the Kansas FFA Association because it takes a village to accomplish the mission that we have set out for our association. A skill that I portray through tough situations is levelheadedness. During times of conflict, I aim to be calm and offer helpful advice from that levelheaded perspective. In the Spring of 2023, I attended FBLA Nationals in Atlanta, Georgia. I came across many conflicts during this trip, as there was plenty of shared anxiety

regarding our upcoming performances in contests. As our chapter President, it was my duty to coordinate group study sessions to prepare for each contest. After one of our group study sessions, there was a negative attitude throughout the room. I was hearing an abundance of pessimistic comments about how the next contest day would unravel. Hearing these doubtful remarks was upsetting, as I strive to promote a positive environment—especially in times of high-stress. So, I had everyone in the group write a blessing list. The list included positive moments that had already happened during Nationals week. Writing these moments down gave us the opportunity to reflect together. We came to the conclusion that the experience outweighed the end result. I was glad to help redirect their mentality; effectively setting a positive standard for the rest of the trip. Lastly, selflessness is another important role in leaving a positive legacy on any organization. Above all, I aim to be kind, honest, and fulfill my promise of educating future agriculturists.

2500 character limit

Signature of State Officer Candidate

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Zoe L. Rhodes". 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