

Addison Lynn Bina

Preferred First Name

Addison

High School

Centre

Chapter Name

Centre

Chapter Number

KS0052

Semesters of Agricultural Education Completed

7

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

Agricultural Education

Career Objective

Secondary Agricultural Education

FFA and Agriculture Education Experience

Supervised Agriculture Experience Program and Scope

My SAE is a placement in Fruit and Vegetable Production. I work on a produce farm where I handle all produce to ensure its freshness and control product quality. Typically, my day-to-day responsibilities include propagating, planting, and harvesting produce. I maintain fields with weed management and implement proper watering techniques to keep crops healthy for customers. I demonstrate my knowledge of plant sciences daily to ensure all aspects of the farm are in good health.

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

Chapter Sentinel, Centre FFA Chapter, 1 year (2023-2024)

District Sentinel, South Central District, 1 year (2024-2025)

Chapter Vice-President, Centre FFA Chapter, 1 year (2024-2025)

Chapter President, Centre FFA Chapter, 1 year (2025-2026)

Growing Leaders Committee Chair, 1 year (2025-2026)

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

Nursery Landscape CDE - 3 years; National Convention - 2 years; Land Judging CDE - 3 years; Prepared Public Speaking - 4 years;

Entomology CDE - 4 years; Leadership School - 4 years; Extemporaneous Speaking - 2 years; Farm Management - 2 years; Ag Awareness Day - 4 years; Ag Sales - 1 year

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

Basketball Team - 2 years; Trap Team - 2 years; Scholars Bowl Team (4 years), Varsity Captain (1 year); NHS Secretary - 1 year; Robotics, Captain (2 years); Student Council - Member (4 years), Vice-President (1 year); Blood Drive Volunteer - 4 years; Bethany Oratorio Society - 2 years; FBLA - 1 year

Essay Questions

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

To preface, growing up, it was never a question whether or not I was a neurodivergent child, and in recent years, autism has been in the discussion. My lack of communication skills was very evident, and I had difficulty when placed in new environments. So it's no question that my task was a nearly impossible feat.

My biggest accomplishment is placing first in Creed at Fort Scott Aggie Days my freshman year. When I started public speaking, I couldn't stand in front of an audience—not even of people I knew—and talk. Any attempt at public speaking led to me freezing up, crying, or just running out of the room.

After dozens of practices and two contests with that exact result, and even my advisor saying, "I thought you would have given up." I knew something needed changing. I devoted every day to practicing those five paragraphs over and over.

I spent months tweaking and polishing my performance until I was sure it couldn't get any better. In the few short months that I spent tweaking and polishing my performance into perfection, I learned things about myself that I would have never imagined.

Even after countless failures, my grit and determination leading up to the contest were unparalleled. That small accomplishment has been the driving force in shaping my leadership style. Learning to face my fears has enabled me to support others in their endeavors, whether that's in FFA or in life. I have learned that leading isn't about being the loudest, the strongest, or even the "picture-perfect" FFA member. Leading is about being a support system for my peers and using faults to grow. Now, I lead with the mindset of helping others achieve their goals and become exactly the person they wish to be. Only the greatest leaders have faced the hardest trials and persevered.

My story proves that even the most improbable things can happen when you have the right mindset. My leadership style has been altered greatly over the past years because I turned my failures into successes and my weaknesses into my greatest strengths. I've finally realized exactly what a leader is and have transformed myself into exactly the leader I wish to have known during the most impactful time in my life.

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

If elected, I would positively influence the Kansas FFA Association by building an effective support system for members to feel included and know that they are seen by the Kansas FFA Association.

I plan to be an advocate for connection within our organization, prioritizing community outreach and engaging with members positively to ensure that every FFA member has equal opportunity, no matter how large or small their chapter is.

I would work to improve engagement with members and community outreach within the organization. Kansas FFA is fortunate to have a supportive community (having the third largest amount of donations on Give FFA Day). Our organization could benefit greatly from giving back to that supportive community that has invested so much money and time into us. It is my personal conviction not to just teach students about agriculture and FFA, but to cultivate leaders who show immense gratitude and appreciation to all those who exhibit support for the FFA and all of our endeavors.

As agricultural advocacy begins within the classroom, I hope that, as a state officer, I would help expand our reach across Kansas Schools—establishing effective communication across chapters—and implement new ideas and teaching methods to enhance agricultural literacy and improve member retention after the Greenhand year.

As an FFA member, my primary goal is to encourage involvement from members from every background. Members need to know that FFA isn't just cows, plows, and sows; there is a place for everyone in this organization, regardless of their SAE projects or whether they live on a farm or not. I live with the mindset that every agriculturalist—from traditional farmers and ranchers to ag lobbyists—is equally important.

I plan to leave a lasting impression on the lives of Kansas FFA members with my "can-do" attitude and my dedication to "making a positive difference in the lives of students." By doing this, I will ensure that every FFA member has ample opportunity to grow as agriculturalists and as leaders.