

# Karson Michael Schierling

**Preferred First Name**

Karson

**High School**

Inman Jr/Sr High School

**Chapter Name**

Inman FFA

**Chapter Number**

KS0084

**Semesters of Agricultural Education Completed**

22

**Years in FFA**

6

**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**

Agriculture Economics

**Career Objective**

Undecided

## FFA and Agriculture Education Experience

**Supervised Agriculture Experience Program and Scope**

My supervised agricultural experience is Beef Production Placement. I work on a small calf feeding operation owned by my parents. This operation is called Diamond S Cattle Company. We raise beef and sell it to customers all across the state of Kansas. My role in this business ranges anywhere from selling beef, all the way to fixing the trailer and truck we used to haul the animals. Through this business I've learned skills such as sales, working with animals, and turning wrenches.

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

Inman FFA Junior Secretary 2022-2023

Inman FFA Sentinel 2023-2024

Inman FFA Sentinel 2024-2025

Inman FFA Barnyard Day Committee President

Inman FFA Hunter's Breakfast Organizer 2023 - 2024

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

State Extemporaneous Speaking 2025

State Parliamentary Procedure Greenhand 2022

State Parliamentary Procedure Senior 2024

State Parliamentary Procedure Senior 2025

State Quiz Bowl 2024

SCD Ritual Ceremonies 2021-2024

SCD Info Test 2021-2024

SCD Parliamentary Procedure 2021-2024

SCD Extemporaneous Speaking 2023-2025

National Convention 2022-2024

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

St. Peters Church Nominating Committee

BBQ Club (founder)  
BBQ club (President)  
Inman Film color commentator  
FarmHouse Parliamentarian  
FarmHouse Activities Committee  
FarmHouse Interim Assistant Social Chair  
Inman Senior Center Volunteer Cook  
Vacation Bible School Group Leader (3rd Grade)  
Inman High School Baseball 3 years

## **Essay Questions**

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

My biggest accomplishment in life up until this very moment occurred so early into my existence on this earth. At 18 months, my parents noticed me stumbling around and losing control of the left side of my body. They took me in to get checked and, little did we know, I had a grade 3 malignant brain tumor. Over the next six months there came many rigorous forms of treatment, surgeries and transfusions, but we made it out just fine and with a few very minor side effects. All things considered, at the time of this tragedy I only had a 30% chance to live past the age of 5. Being able to beat childhood cancer is my biggest accomplishment in life and what truly gave me life to begin with. The best people are all the great doctors and my awesome parents who have helped shape my leadership style exponentially through my hardships, but the one who has come to shape me the most is the Lord. It was around 2 to three years ago that my parents told me that I only had a 30% chance to make it past the age of 5. Ever since this harsh reality was laid upon me, I have been able to treat every day as a blessing, dig deeper into the Word of the Lord, and truly lead people. Being and becoming the best version of myself every single day that I live on the earth with the people around me is the biggest blessing possible when it comes to learning how to lead people and being able to put the Word in action to help make the world a better place. There have been many impactful people in my life, and these are some of the lessons that I learned from them. My mom taught me how to be vigilant, just like they were in spotting what was wrong with their kid. She taught me to be aware, attentive, and alert to my surroundings. In leadership terms, this allows me to anticipate problems before they have even the slightest chance to escalate, promoting a better work environment and a better relationship among peers. What my dad taught me is resilience. Resilience is having that key ability to keep moving when things get tough. The hardest part about being resilient is having a positive mindset. No matter what situation is thrown at you, always keep a level head and know that you will get through it. Through all these lessons and great (and not so great) experiences, I have learned a tremendous amount about what it takes to be a leader. It turns out in the end, the easiest way to become a leader is by surrounding yourself with like-minded great individuals that complement your weaknesses.

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

Everyone's drive to do something great comes from someone who pushed them to take that first step. In my experience, it was my advisor, Mr. Knapp. I was just a 7th grader walking through the halls when I saw an Inman FFA poster up in the hallway. It read "Chapter meeting Wednesday to discuss joining FFA." I took this as an invitation, walked down to the ag shop, and that was the start of my journey. You wouldn't normally believe someone if they told you something as simple as a poster could change their life, but in this case, that poster was everything. My first competition was middle school Ag Education Academy. From that moment on, I was completely hooked. Throughout high school, Mr. Knapp could never keep me out of his room. While I was an officer, I made it my mission to bring the most impactful experience to all the members in our chapter and school. Involving the alumni and the school board across many decisions was truly key for the growth our chapter was able to experience in the time I held an office. Whether it was late night study sessions with student teachers who were teaching us about the meat judging CDE, or the long car rides across the South Central District, these were the moments that positively impacted me and my experience with the Kansas FFA organization. Keeping members hooked on what you believe in involves strong personal relationships. Being able to sit down and talk to somebody or walk to a group of people, shake hands and meet them is such an important skill that keeps people interested and keep people coming back to your organization. This is how I will make a positive influence on the Kansas FFA Association. Building a strengthened community culture we will grow as an organization. Being able to do this will help us have a higher retention rate of students and members year over year as they get older through high school. Having a strong community like this helps others feel connected, and it encourages growth and improvement across the board. Going to state convention is an awesome experience and being able to see the leaderboards of chapters placing in many different events just makes others want to strive to be better in their own. My family and I love Kansas FFA, and I can create a positive influence by using my voice and the key traits of being an FFA member that I have been shown throughout my life and time in the organization.