



Changes to New Jersey FFA Applications

RATIONALE

The New Jersey FFA Association continues to explore ways to utilize AET to enhance efficiency of record-keeping, simplify workloads, and ensure consistent data management for reporting. Applications already being used in AET can help us do just that. Eliminating standalone FFA applications and combining them with an existing application streamlines the process, reducing redundancy, and making it more efficient for chapters.

REMOVAL

The following award areas will no longer be offered as standalone applications:

1. FFA Week Award
2. Outstanding Community Service Project Award
3. 8,000 Hour Challenge
4. Agricultural Awareness Award
5. Most Improved Chapter

NEW/MODIFIED AWARD AREAS AND PROCESSES

1. The National Chapter Application will be utilized to recognize chapters with the following awards:
 - a. Superior Chapter Award (*Unchanged*)
 - i. Every chapter that meets the minimum quality chapter standards and completes Form I will qualify as a state superior chapter.
 - ii. To do this, chapters need to conduct one activity related to each quality standard in addition to meeting the minimum criteria outlined in the National Quality Chapter Standards.
 - iii. Chapters will receive a superior chapter certificate.
 - b. State Gold, Silver, and Bronze Chapter Awards (*Unchanged*)
 - i. To compete for state gold, silver or bronze awards, chapters must qualify for the superior chapter award AND complete Form II.
 - ii. Chapters use Form II to report goals, plans of action and results/evaluation on three activities for each division.
 - iii. Chapters are ranked as gold, silver, or bronze based on a rubric.
 - iv. Chapters receive a multi-year plaque and yearly plaque spurs specifying the level achieved each year. The top three scoring chapters receive monetary awards – 1st \$200, 2nd \$150, and 3rd \$100.
 - v. The chapters that rank gold are eligible to compete for the National FFA Star Chapter Awards.
 - c. State Premier Chapter Awards will be used to recognize the top chapter with innovative activities in each of the three divisions – Growing Leaders, Building Communities, Strengthening Agriculture. (*New*)
 - i. The top-ranking chapter in the Growing Leaders division will receive the Growing Leaders Premier Chapter Award.



- ii. The top-ranking chapter in the Building Communities division will receive the Building Communities Premier Chapter Award. This award will supplant the Outstanding Community Service Project Award.
 - iii. The top-ranking chapter in the Strengthening Agriculture division will receive the Strengthening Agriculture Premier Chapter Award. This award will supplant the Agricultural Awareness Award.
 - iv. Chapters that receive these awards will receive a corduroy banner and \$150.
 - v. Chapters DO NOT need to receive a Gold Ranking to be eligible for the State Premier Chapter Awards due to the quota of Gold eligible chapters set by National FFA.
 - vi. A chapter can be recognized with more than one of the State Premier Chapter Awards.
 - d. Grow Beyond Recognition will be a designation given to chapters that submit National Chapter Form II in the current application year but only submitted Form I in the previous application year. *(New)*
 - i. Chapters with this designation will receive a Grow Beyond sticker/stamp on their Superior Chapter certificate.
 - ii. Chapters can receive this designation more than once.
 - e. National Chapter Applications must be added to the Submission List in AET by 11:59 pm on April 1 to be considered for these awards.
- 2. Community Service Hours will be recognized based on a state report pulled from AET at 11:59 pm on May 1.
 - a. There is no formal submission process for this recognition. Recognition is based on community service journal entries submitted through AET.
 - b. Chapters will be recognized with the Chapter Excellence in Community Service Award as Gold, Silver, or Bronze.
 - i. Chapters will receive a certificate.
 - ii. Gold (500+ hours), Silver (300-499 hours), Bronze (100-299 hours)
 - c. The top 10 students will be recognized with the “Excellence in Community Service Award.”
 - i. Students will receive a certificate and a pin.
 - ii. Community service hours are based on school year, not cumulative hours over multiple years.
 - d. Community Service Hours must meet National FFA Guidelines to be eligible.
 - i. Community service is the engagement of individuals or groups in an organized activity that contributes to the local, national or world community. Community service activities are those opportunities that are available to all residents of a community. They consist of activities that make the community a better place to live and work. It is also known as volunteering which is defined as the practice of people working on behalf of others or a particular cause, without payment, for their time and services.
 - ii. See the full guidelines here:
<https://ffa.app.box.com/s/75vwmzgxsh4x0a55gy1to8ejw7g2iby/file/323326541238>.