

How to Join

Whether you were a FFA member or not you can join the National FFA Alumni Association and be a part of an organization that prides itself in helping make FFA students' lives better. Your commitment helps ensure the continued success of America's premier youth leadership organization.

Group Involvement

This is a list of ways an FFA Alumni member or affiliate can help the local FFA chapter:

- Money for: Scholarships, Awards, Trips, Conferences, Conventions
- Serve as a guest speaker
- Help find SAE projects
- Mentor members
- Serve as a coach for Career Development Events
- And much more!

1. Who can become an Alumni member?

Anyone can be an Alumni member; membership is open to anyone who is interested in volunteering, supporting, and promoting agricultural education and the FFA on the local, state and national level.

2. How much does an Alumni membership cost?

Regular membership- cost depends on your local Affiliate. You can receive the FFA Alumni New Visions newsletter and a voice in alumni business; for an additional \$2.50, you can receive the National FFA New Horizons magazine. **Life Time** membership – \$200 per individual (\$160.00 goes to National & \$40.00 goes to State) – this is a one-time payment; you will receive a membership card, certificate, life subscription to New Visions newsletter and New Horizons magazine and a voice in alumni business. Corporate membership – \$300 annually; this membership is extended to businesses and corporations.

The New **Affiliation Membership** which Ohio has adopted requires each established or chartered Affiliate to submit \$100.00 dues by November 30th of each year and National requires \$100.00 dues (waived by National if your Affiliate has 25 or more Life Time memberships). Essentially, you can add as many members to your local Affiliate, without local dues, and only have to pay the fees stated above. The Life Time membership due is separate from the Affiliate dues.

3. How do you establish a new FFA Alumni affiliate?

Local FFA Alumni affiliate – have at least 10 established members who have paid National and State FFA Alumni dues; have a constitution/bylaws in harmony with the State and National FFA Alumni Bylaws; have a council of elected members; complete the application for Local Charter; submit the completed Application for Local Charter, the Constitution/Bylaws, completed roster, and national and state dues for at least 10 members to the Ohio FFA Alumni Association.

4. How do I (affiliate) re-activate an Alumni affiliate?

Update your constitution and bylaws; elect officers; pay state and national dues; must submit Application for Updated Local Affiliate, submit a copy of updated constitution/bylaws, listing of elected officers, and state and national dues for at least ten members to the Ohio FFA Alumni Association.

5. Where do I (affiliate) get the Constitution and By-Laws?

A “recommended” constitution and bylaws can be located on the website (www.ffa.org/alumni) under the Membership tab; scroll to the bottom of the page for these documents. Also, ask the Ohio FFA Alumni Council for an example.

6. How can having a local FFA Alumni Affiliate benefit me, my school and my community?

An FFA Alumni Affiliate provides a means to further agricultural education; facilitates involvement and support of former members and others interested in FFA and agricultural education; promotes and maintains an appreciation of the American Free enterprise system; enhances the personal development aspect of FFA; serves as advocates for FFA and agricultural education on local, state and national levels; utilizes volunteer management tools provided by National FFA Alumni.

7. Where do I (affiliate) get a GEN number and why do I need it?

(GEN = group exemption number) You receive the GEN number once you have established an affiliate. As an affiliate you must file for your EIN number; this is generally required to open bank accounts or other investments that generate interest or dividends for the local FFA Alumni. Once you apply for and receive the EIN number, you would contact the National FFA Alumni Association at which time our accounting department will contact the IRS to have their EIN linked to the National FFA Organization EIN. Affiliates must remain active on the national level to maintain this information.

8. Where/why must I apply for an EIN number?

(EIN = employee identification number) Again, this is typically needed for you to establish bank accounts, other investments and to file for the IRS Form 990. You will receive the paperwork from the National FFA Alumni office once your affiliate is chartered. That completed paperwork is then sent to the IRS. Once you obtain your EIN please send it to the National Alumni office to be linked with the National FFA.

9. If a 990N form is received from the IRS do I need to file?

Yes, if this form is received you must file with the IRS. No matter what your gross income is for your affiliate you must now file the 990N. The filing requirement changed in 2008. For more information please visit the irs.gov/charities website or the ffa.org/alumni website.

10. Where is additional information regarding FFA Alumni?

You will find the FFA Alumni Manual at www.ffa.org/alumni; there is a wealth of information regarding membership, services, suggested activities, awards, activities, etc.

“The Ohio FFA Alumni Association is a support organization that does not select, control or supervise local affiliates or individual member activities except as expressly provided for in the state FFA Alumni constitution, bylaws or policies.”

How to Start an Affiliate

10 Steps to Organize an Alumni Affiliate at your School

1. After you have secured an alumni chartering notebook have your Support Groups Committee or interested students meet with 2-3 community members.
2. Appoint a temporary chairperson.
3. Discuss with your teacher what assistance you need. Coaches, land, equipment, money, etc.
4. Develop a tentative constitution and by-laws (samples are in the chartering notebook).
5. Set a date for an organizational meeting and go ask for members and tell them why you need them to join.
6. Make a list of potential members each will contact. Include farmers, business leaders, parents, Administration, Advisory committee members, etc.
7. Put an article on the alumni in the school and local papers.
8. Invite a state council member – list is here on the web under alumni council or in the chartering notebook.
9. Organizational meeting should start with need and purpose. Have FFA members participate. Define membership eligibility..
10. Have your alumni work side by side with students to support and serve the program and community.

Chartering an Alumni Affiliate

Sample Chartering Meeting PowerPoint Presentations ([Presentation 1](#), [Presentation 2](#))

1. You need a minimum of 10 members.
2. You need to fill out an application form.
3. You need to have a constitution.
4. You need to have by-laws.
5. You need to pay dues
6. You need to know the national membership year is from Sept.- Aug., but you receive a full year of membership benefits whenever you join.
7. The alumni encourages you to do the activities your community needs.
8. The alumni encourages you to support your FFA members and chapter as needed.

9. Your mission is to provide a structure that will mobilize and empower your community to support and assist agriculture education programs

An Action Plan

At the organizational meeting:

1. Discuss procedure for chartering a local affiliate.
2. Have temporary chair person ask for a motion to form an affiliate.
3. When the motion passes have the local FFA advisor take over the meeting for the election of President.
4. The President then takes over the meeting to conduct the election of Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, etc.
5. Review the suggested FFA Alumni by laws, constitution and application.
6. A motion to accept the constitution and by laws is then in order.
7. Establish local dues (if any).
8. Have standing committees for your activities, such as: membership, finance, transportation, judging, award selection, legislation (advocacy), etc. Select other committees as needed.
9. Review list of potential members not in attendance and divide the responsibility of contacting each prospect.
10. Set a time to have members join. Many affiliates allow one month, the shorter the time, the better.

Special notes:

Have all members pay dues immediately following the meeting. This will insure they will be charter members. Have Secretary assist the advisor in filling out the application. Complete roster with each members information. Have Treasurer check with the bank on local policy for non-profit status. Have two signatures for check signature. If a new member is currently a member of another affiliate and would like to transfer to the new affiliate, please include all information and make a note of the pending transfer. Publicity of the meeting should go to all media sources. Publicize all activities.

Membership Roster

Membership must be submitted by March 1 through the FFA AgCN at www.ffa.org.

To be considered as a chartered affiliate you must maintain at least 10 members.