

Your Legal Rights: Don't Dial "1" to Stop Bogus Calls

From the Office of Minnesota Attorney General Lori Swanson

It can happen like this: "Ted" answers his phone. A pre-recorded voice instructs him to press "1" to stop future calls or "2" to speak with a live person. Ted presses "1" because he wants the calls to stop.

"Beth" receives a similar call. She presses "2", intending to tell the caller to stop calling. In both cases, the call immediately disconnects. Neither "Ted" or "Beth" ever speak with a live person.

Pressing one of these numbers may seem harmless, but doing so may lead to an increase in calls. Here's why:

Scam artists often use dialing machines to place calls using a number generator. The automated dialer does not know when it dials a number whether or not that specific phone number is active. Answering such a call and then pressing "1" or "2" in response indicates that the number is valid and that someone has picked up the call. The scammer then may call again, knowing there is a good chance the call will be answered, in an effort to commit a financial scam. Or, the scammer may place your number on a list of "live" phone numbers he sells to other scammers.

If you get unwanted calls, the most effective approach is to simply hang up without speaking. Do not press any buttons, which just confirms that your number is active.

Unfortunately, given the ease with which such calls can be placed with modern technology, there is no quick or easy way to end these types of calls. These calls are almost always

made by people located outside Minnesota, and often outside the United States. People should report these calls to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), which has the authority to enforce laws regarding unwanted calls and work with international law enforcement authorities to curb financial scams. You may contact the FTC as follows:

Federal Trade Commission
Consumer Response Center
600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20580
(877) 382-4357
TTY: (866) 653-4261
Website: www.ftccomplaintassistant.gov

For more information about these and other scams, you may contact the Minnesota Attorney General's Office at:

Office of Minnesota Attorney General Lori Swanson
445 Minnesota Street, Suite 1400
St. Paul, MN 55101
(651) 296-3353 (Twin Cities Calling Area)
(800) 657-3787 (Outside the Twin Cities)
TTY: (651) 297-7206 or (800) 366-4812
Website: www.ag.state.mn.us



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Are you a military veteran with a discharge above dishonorable? If so, you may be eligible for federal and state veteran benefits. Call the Lake County Veterans Service Office for eligibility and details.



Main Office:
Lake County Service Center
(across from the courthouse)
616 3rd Avenue, Two Harbors, MN 55616 Phone: 218-834-8326
Office Hours: Monday-Tuesday-Thursday 0800-1600, Friday 0800-1200

Silver Bay Office:
Lake County Service Center
(Mary MacDonald Center)
99 Edison Blvd., Silver Bay, MN 55614
Phone: 218-226-4443
Office Hours: Every Wednesday 0900-1500 or by appointment

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FFA Members Across the Country Celebrate National FFA Week

Submitted by Leah Bott

Agriculture is part of our daily lives-from the food we eat to the clothes we wear. More than 653,000 FFA members celebrated the role agriculture, food, and natural resources plays in our lives while sharing the message of agricultural education as part of National FFA Week.

National FFA Week is a time for FFA members to host activities that raise awareness about the role the National FFA Organization plays in the development of agriculture's future leaders and the importance of education in the area of agriculture, food, and natural resources.

National FFA Week always runs Saturday to Saturday and encompasses Feb. 22, George Washington's birthday. This year, the week kicked off on Feb. 17 and culminated on Feb. 24.

The National FFA Board of Directors designated the weeklong tradition, which began in 1948, in recognition of Washington's legacy as an agriculturist and farmer. A group of young farmers founded FFA in 1928, influencing generations that agriculture is more than planting and harvesting - it involves science, business and more. The organization works to prepare future generations for the challenges of feeding a growing population while protecting the environment.

Today, FFA continues to help the next generation meet new agricultural challenges, develop unique talents and explore a broad range of career pathways. Today's FFA members are



tomorrow's future biologists, chemists, veterinarians, engineers and entrepreneurs.

The Silver Bay/Two Harbors FFA wants to thank the community for encouraging and supporting our school based organization as we build leadership skills along with knowledge and skill in a wide range of areas within the Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources pathway. Our members have attended leadership development workshops, gained speaking and leadership skills in the Conduct of Meetings Parliamentary Procedure Leadership Development Event, and participated in the following Career Development Events at the regional, state, and sometimes even the national level: Forestry, Fish and Wildlife, Food Science, Small Animal Care, Horse Evaluation, Dairy Evaluation, Floriculture, and Best Informed Greenhand.

Students involved in the local FFA chapter are students enrolled in Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resource courses at William Kelley High School and Two Harbors High School and are advised by Leah Bott. They work hard to develop as leaders, serve their community, and gain knowledge and skills for the future. Congratulations and good luck to all as we wrap up National FFA Week and continue to prepare for upcoming competitions!



(photos) **Seniors:** Max Andrus, Jason Blood, Zachary Blood, Cora Carter, Morganne Curtis, Alexis Miller, Al Robertsen **Junior:** Mackenzie Dwyer **Sophomores:** Audrey Hanson, Sarah Swartout **Freshman:** Hunter Dow, Riley Harkness, Allison Kaiser **8th Grade:** Raina Braun, Hannah Fransen, Rhianna Mathes, Nicole Tibbetts, Shadae Whitehead **7th Grade:** Elizabeth Althaus, Chase Dow, Hope Ernest, Pierce Lillis, Madeleine Swanson, Ethan Swartout **Participating as graduates:** Gunnar Frahm, Zachary Lewis, Caitlin Martineau, Andrew Evenson

