

California FFA

Delegate Process



2020 Delegate Committee Reports

PROGRAM OF ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

The Program of Activities Committee is to develop recommendations related to various areas of the California FFA Association's Program of Activities.

Expansion of Middle School Opportunities – Subcommittee 2.1

The purpose of the Committee on Middle School Expansion is to suggest new middle school opportunities in California FFA. These opportunities of involvement include, but are not limited to, Career Development Events and leadership conferences.

The subcommittees were chaired by:

Nicole Arias – Julian FFA

Ryan Sumaya – Menifee-Heritage FFA

Maddison Kerns – Auburn-Placer FFA

The Committee recommends the adoption of the following resolution:

- Whereas, there is a lack of ability for middle school involvement at CDE and LDE Competitions. As of now there is only one competition in each area that discovery members can participate in. The competition levels also give unfair disadvantages to discovery members who have not been in FFA for as long. Past discovery members would also have an advantage over other members that have not been given the opportunity to be in FFA since middle school.
- Whereas, there is a lack of leadership opportunities for middle schoolers within their chapters. With these limited opportunities, the personal growth and leadership development of middle schoolers remains stagnant until they get into high school and can pursue leadership positions within their chapter.
- Whereas, the transition from middle school to high school FFA programs may be stressful and often results in a loss of membership. There is a lack of connection between the middle school and high school members and their programs. Most high schools have feeder schools that can be utilized to start discovery programs, but they do not have the recruitment programs in place to do so.
- Whereas, there are few regions that hold their own Discovery Leadership Conferences and there is no set standard for materials or curriculum for the conference. If the regional officers are supposed to run this conference, they need some form of training and guidance on how to do so. Additionally, not all regions may have the financial means to host their own Discovery Leadership Conference.

- Whereas, the discovery program in the FFA is not being promoted in middle schools across the state and discovery membership is low. There may be interest from middle schools to have an FFA program, however some of them may not know how to work towards their charter. Furthermore, there is a lack of understanding from middle schoolers on what the FFA and the agricultural industry is. As a result of this, gauging interest from middle schoolers becomes challenging

Therefore, be it

- Resolved, to create a new category in CDE and LDE competitions for Discovery members exclusively and open up more of these competitions for Discovery members (i.e. livestock judging, parliamentary procedure, impromptu speaking). The material for the competitions could cover an introductory knowledge for said competition. This would ensure that members who have been participating in these competitions since middle school would not have an unfair advantage over older members.
- Resolved, a Discovery Officer Team or a representative from the middle school should be recognized and permitted. The duties of this officer team or representative would be to promote leadership within their chapters. The team's duties would follow those that are outlined on CalAgEd.org for Chapter Officers. As a result of this, a new category in the Opening and Closing competition could be started for Discovery members, so that these new officer teams would be allowed to compete. The representatives or officers would also have a connection with their local high school's FFA officer team and could serve as a liaison between the two chapters.
- Resolved, that the state outlines a recruitment or mentoring program for high schools if they do not have one in place. This mentoring program could look like high school FFA members paired up with middle school FFA members in order to foster their leadership skills and ensure an easy transition into high school. High school FFA chapters could also involve local middle schools in their chapter meetings and events, creating a greater connection and bridging the age gap between these members.
- Resolved, that the state provides an outline of how Discovery Leadership Conference should be ran. This could include a list of materials, workshop ideas, and instructions for facilitators. In order to train each regional officer team for facilitating their own DLC, there could be a workshop training at the Regional Officer Leadership Conference. This workshop would build off of their training in facilitating conferences, but would cater to instructing middle schoolers. For the regions that do not have the funds to put on their own conference, the state could provide a financial grant for regions that need it to help cover expenses for materials and facilities.
- Resolved, that the California FFA includes a tab on their website about the Discovery program and highlights middle school FFA achievements on social media. On the website, if a Discovery tab were created, it could include the outlines on working towards a charter, as well as ideas on agricultural materials or curriculum for middle schoolers. Local high schools who have feeder schools to reach out to could be given resources by the state to help them promote middle school interest in agriculture. The implementation of the Discovery Leadership Conference in each region would also assist with educating middle schoolers and raising their awareness of the FFA.

Respectfully Submitted,

Savanah Downs – Bakersfield Christian FFA
Devon Pastor-Guzman – Oakdale FFA

Committee Chairs