

# **California FFA Creed**

## **Virtual Guide**

*Please use the following as a guide to assist you when hosting a Virtual Creed.*

#### Contest Moderator/School Host Responsibilities

- The room hosts will need to create Zoom links for each room
- Create a spreadsheet to email to all chapters in your section and have students pre-register for the contest one month prior to the contest.
  - Set a deadline to stop registration 2 weeks prior to your contest to ensure you have the right number of judges.
  - The spreadsheet should have tabs that asks for contestant names, phone numbers and personal email, along with their advisors name, phone number and email.
- Email will be the primary method of communication for judges, advisors and contestants; however, phone calls may be made day of event in the case of a no-show.
- Secure Judges for Preliminary and Final Rounds
  - You will need 3 judges and 1 accuracy judge per room.
  - Ask schools to provide names of possible judges.
  - Once Judges have confirmed you can email them the instructions and links to Zoom and the scorecard.
  - On the day of the contest, have judges log in 15 minutes prior to the contest for a brief judges orientation and to go over the format.
- Send Judges and Scoring instructions via email to all judges.
  - Instructions should include zoom links, method of scoring, and curricular code
- Send emails to Contestants and Advisors 1 week prior and 2 days prior to the event.

#### Digital Platform & Format

- Virtual contest will be done using Zoom. Set up with waiting room enabled to allow host to bring in speakers at the correct time.
- Contestants will be informed two days before the contest, via email with the time and link to join the Zoom conference and directions on how the contest will be ran.
- Contestants will be assigned a specific time to log into Zoom.
- They will be instructed to show up 5 minutes early and be in the “waiting room” until the host lets them into the presentation room.
- The judging room will have 3 judges and 1 accuracy judge/timekeeper.
- The contest host will determine how many speakers in each preliminary round and how many advance to the final round from each room.
- Only judges and contestants will be able to participate in the judging room. No other spectators, advisors, or parents will be allowed.
- The Creed presentations will not be recorded.

### Official Dress and Presentation

- Contestants need to be in official dress when competing in the contest.
- Contestants can choose to either sit or stand in order to give the FFA Creed, as long as they are within the Zoom frame.

### Curricular Code

- Please see the Creed Curricular Code for rules.
- Students will be assigned a time to present the Creed and that information will be shared 1 week prior to the event.

### Zoom Tips

- Enable the waiting room in your settings before starting the meeting.
- Have all contestants in the waiting room.
- Make the accuracy judge/timekeeper a Co-Host so they can monitor the waiting room and prompt the speaker if needed.
- Do not remove any students from the zoom. If they accidentally add to Zoom, put them back into the waiting room. If you remove the contestant, they cannot join the same zoom meeting again as it will think they were spammed.

# FFA Creed Instructions

*To be shared with advisors and students prior to the event*

## **Event Guidelines**

1. Students will receive their Zoom information two days prior to the event.
2. The student must be in their official FFA uniform.
3. Students need to understand the Zoom capabilities to include, the video audio and video camera.
4. The student needs to be ready at their assigned times.
5. When it is time for the student to present the FFA Creed, they will be let into the Zoom room.
6. There should be no activity/distraction in the room during the speakers allocated speaking time.
7. Nothing will be recorded. Only the speaker will have access to the Zoom room/presentation.
8. The speaker order will be pre-determined and be given a time in which they will present the Creed. The speaker MUST be ready to enter Zoom five minutes prior to their starting time and wait to be accepted by the host.
9. In the event “something happens”, the Host will send a chat or email message to re-adjust times and/or will send a note to keep those in the holding room informed.
10. The Host and/or Accuracy Judge will let them know when to begin. This individual will confirm the name of the speaker. If there are questions being addressed between the Host and/or Accuracy Judge and the speaker, no deduction of words will occur. Once the Host and/or Accuracy Judge indicates it is time to begin, the speaker will begin the FFA Creed. Memorization deduction points will only occur once the presentation of the FFA Creed begins.
11. In the event the speaker disappears from the screen, the speaker is to remain focused and continue to deliver until they have completed the presentation. In the event the Host and/or Accuracy Judge needs to stop the speaker, he/she will do so to correct whatever technical issue is occurring. The speaker will not be penalized and will be prompted to continue with the correct paragraph.

## **Presentation**

1. The speaker will determine in advance how he/she will present the FFA Creed. They may be seated in front of a computer/phone or have another system in place to deliver the FFA Creed. The judges have been instructed to evaluate the presentation of the Creed and responses to the questions, not the physical enhancement of the setting.
2. Students can use a cell phone (with or without a hot spot) to deliver, but a computer is recommended. It is recommended to double check the location in advance to determine if the speaker has a good signal with whatever device they choose to use.

### Use of Cell Phones

- Cell phone signals are not always consistent. If the delivery becomes blurred, the Zoom Host and/or Accuracy Judge will click the video camera button to correct the situation.

### Use of Computers

- To ensure there are no interruptions, the speaker should find a strong Wi-Fi (not far from the receiver) or direct connection.
3. The judges will not have a distracting background on their screen.
  4. If the contestant has a pause longer than 10 seconds, the accuracy judge will prompt the speaker with the next word.

### Scorecard

1. After reviewing the scorecard, we will give everyone an automatic 10 points for eye contact.
2. Every other component on the scorecard can be scored through our virtual format.

### Results

1. The semi-final round results will be emailed to the Creed speakers and their advisors identifying who will move on to the final round.
2. The posted results will include speaker order and times assigned for each speaker to be prepared to enter the Zoom room for the next round of competition.
3. The Final results will be announced at a pre-determined time via Instagram and Facebook; however, the contest host determines.

## **FFA Creed Speaking Guidelines**

### Speaker Timeline

- Each speaker will be assigned a specific time to speak.
- We will allocate 10 minutes for each speaker to deliver (no more than 3 minutes for the presentation (it will be done in less time), 3 minutes for the questions, but the max is 5 that no one will reach/exceed and 2 minutes for the judges to tally their scores and be ready for the next speaker.

### Event Logistics

- ***Semi Final Round:*** Three Rooms with three judges and one Accuracy judge in each. The Accuracy judge and/or Host for each room will prompt the speaker if necessary. Two will advance from each room.
- ***Final Round:*** We will have six speakers.

### Questions

- The judges will receive three questions from the contest host minutes before the contest begins.
- The judges will determine who will ask each question.
- The questions will be provided to the contest host by the Regional Supervisor.

# 2020-21 FFA CREED FINALS

## Accuracy Judge/Timekeeper Instructions

1. Monitor the Zoom waiting room. When it is the scheduled start time for a contestant, you will admit them to the meeting.
2. Before the contestant begins speaking, notify him/her that if technological issues arise with video content, you may turn off the video while still continuing to hear them speak. Explain that this sometimes reduces any distortion that the judges might be experiencing. Should the video be turned off, the contestant should continue presenting. The judges will not score body language/mannerisms from that point forward in the presentation.
3. Mute judges and unmute contestants when necessary.
4. If the contestant has a pause longer than 10 seconds, you need to prompt him/her with the next word.
5. For each error, to include a missing word or a transposed word and/or sentence and/or phrase, it must be circled and noted as an error on the individual form for each contestant.
6. Once the first question has been asked, start the clock.
7. At 5 minutes of responding to questions, interrupt the contestant and state loudly, "TIME". There is no penalty for finishing prior to the 5 minutes allotted for questioning.
8. At the conclusion of the speaking event, calculate all errors at two points per word and share this with the three judges to allow them to finalize their scores and rankings.
9. Once the judges have calculated their finals scores and determined their individual rankings, they are to submit those to you. Remind the three judges that there is no discussion allowed regarding individual rankings.
10. Email the rankings sheet to the contest host.
11. If you begin to run behind schedule, send a chat/text message to the contestant in the waiting room to notify them of the delay.

**NOTE:** If a contestant is not in complete FFA uniform, take note of it but do not interrupt the contestant. Allow the contestant to complete the contest. Notify the judges after the speaker has left the meeting room. A contestant out of uniform is automatically disqualified from the contest.

# 2020-21 FFA CREED FINALS

## Host and Judge Instructions

1. Start the Zoom meeting. Be sure all judges are in the meeting before letting in the first speaker. Assign co-host duties to each judge.
2. To make someone a co-host while the meeting is in session go to Manage Participants, hover over the name of the participant who is going to be a co-host and choose More. Click 'Make Co-Host.'
3. Once the Accuracy Judge has admitted the students and has notified them of the message regarding technology (see #2 in the Accuracy Judge/Timekeeper Instructions), proceed with the following:
  - a. Host: Is this John Doe?
  - b. Speaker: Yes
  - c. Host: You may now begin
4. If there are any questions between the speaker and the host of the room prior to the start, no deductions will occur.
5. Each judge will individually update their Score Sheet for each speaker and determine the rankings of 1-7. (Or however many speakers are in the room).
6. Share final rankings with the Accuracy Judge who will forward on to the contest host.

# 2020 FFA CREED FINALS

## Scoring Instructions

1. Each judge will have an Excel spreadsheet emailed to them with the names of the contestants listed at the top of each sheet, the tab, and Final Rankings page.
2. Review the scoring categories on the spreadsheet along with the dress code. Each category is a scale of 0 – 5 points.
3. Once the contestant has finished their presentation, mark your scores in the appropriate column. Formulas are built in to total their scores.
4. The accuracy judge will provide the number of points that need to be deducted from the overall score.
5. Once all speakers are finished go to the final tab, Final Rankings, and rank the speakers based on number of points. The rankings are 1-7 with the 1 being the top scorer and 7 being the lowest position.
6. Each judge will give their final rankings to the accuracy judge. You are not to discuss your rankings with the other judges. The accuracy judge will forward that information to the contest host.



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# CREED RECITATION

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**Revised 6/2017**

## **Purpose and Standards**

The FFA Creed outlines the organization's beliefs regarding the agricultural industry, FFA membership and the value of citizenship and patriotism. The FFA Creed is recited by FFA members, as part of the requirements to earn the Greenhand Degree. The purpose of the Creed Speaking Career Development Event is to develop the public speaking abilities of 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, and 9<sup>th</sup> grade FFA members as well as develop their self-confidence and contribute to their advancement in the FFA degree program.

Foundations Standards: 2.0 Communications, 3.0 Career Planning and Management, 4.0 Technology, 5.0 Problem Solving and Critical Thinking, 9.0 Leadership and Teamwork, 10.0 Technical Knowledge and Skill, and 11.0 Demonstration and Application.

## **Contestants**

1. Each section will determine how many chapter members may participate at the sectional level. Each region will determine how many sectional participants may compete at the regional level. Participation at the state level is limited to the top 50% of those that participate in the regional contest (or major portion thereof), with a maximum of four (4) per region.
2. Members who are at the 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, and 9<sup>th</sup> grade level shall be eligible to participate in the Creed Recitation Contest.

## **Tie Breaker**

Ties will be broken based on the greatest number of low ranks. Participant's low ranks will be counted and the participant with the greatest number of low ranks will be declared the winner. If a tie still exists, then the event superintendent will rank the participant's response to questions.

## **Rules**

- I. The State Finals shall be conducted prior to, or during the State FFA Convention. Appropriate recognition shall be given to section, region, and state winners.
- II. Each participant must recite the FFA Creed from memory as found in the latest edition of the Official FFA Manual.
- III. Official FFA Manual.
- IV. No manuscript or written material shall be used by the participant.
- V. Each participant shall begin the presentation by stating, "The FFA Creed by E.M. Tiffany." Each participant should end the presentation with the statement, "...that inspiring task. Thank you." Additional introductory or concluding remarks will result in accuracy deductions as indicated on the scorecard.
- VI. Each participant will be asked three questions per round with a five-minute time limit.
- VII. The same questions will be asked of each participant. Contest host shall segregate those yet to compete from all others. Questions containing two or more parts will be avoided.
- VIII. The supervisor of the state creed contest will determine, write and provide the judges with questions to be asked of the participants in all rounds at the state, regional and sectional level. More than three questions may be submitted but only three are to be asked. The questions must pertain directly to the contents of the current creed.

- IX. The judges shall select a designated person from within their group to act as a prompter to assist a student that falters (10 seconds) during a recitation.
- X. Participants shall be ranked in numerical order on the basis of the final score to be determined by each judge without consultation. The judges' ranking of each participant then shall be added, and the winner will be that participant whose total ranking is the lowest. Other placings will be determined in the same manner (low point score method of selection).
- XI. Awards will be given to first through sixth place contestants in the state finals.

**Creed Speaking LDE Presentation Rubric (100 Points)**

**Participant#** \_\_\_\_\_

Indicators	Very strong evidence of skills is present 5-4 points	Moderate evidence of skill is present 3-2 points	Strong evidence of skill is not present 1-0 points	Points Earned	Weight	Total Points
<b>Oral Communication - 30 points</b>						
Pace	Speaks very articulately at rate that engages audience.	Speaks articulately but occasionally speaks too fast or has long unnecessary hesitations.	Speaks too slow or too fast to engage audience.		X 2	
Tone	Voice is upbeat, impassioned and under control	Voice is somewhat upbeat, impassioned and under control	Voice is not upbeat; lacks passion and control.		X 2	
Volume	Emitted a clear, audible voice for the audience present.	Emitted a somewhat clear, audible voice for the audience present.	Emitted a barely audible voice for the audience present.		X 2	
<b>Non-verbal Communication - 30 points</b>						
Eye contact	Eye contact constantly used as an effective connection. Constantly looks at the entire audience (90-100 percent of the time).	Eye contact is mostly effective and consistent. Mostly looks around the audience (60-80 percent of the time).	Eye contact does not always allow connection with the speaker. Occasionally looks at someone or some groups (less than 50 percent of the time).		X 2	
Mannerisms and gestures	Hand motions are expressive and used to emphasize talking points. No nervous habits.	Sometimes exhibits nervous habits. Hands are sometimes used to express or emphasize.	Displays some nervous habits. Hands are not used to emphasize talking points; hand motions are sometimes distracting.		X 2	
Poise	Portrays confidence and composure through appropriate body language (stance, posture, facial expressions).	Maintains control most of the time; rarely loses composure.	Lacks confidence and composure.		X 2	

Indicators	Very strong evidence of skills is present 5-4 points	Moderate evidence of skill is present 3-2 points	Strong evidence of skill is not present 1-0 points	Points Earned	Weight	Total Points
<b>Question and Answer - 40 points</b>						
Response to questions	Is able to respond with organized thoughts and concise answers.	Is able to speak effectively and sometimes gets off topic. Answer lacks organization.	Response fails to answer question.		X 2	
Support	Always provides details which support answers/basis of the question.	Usually provides details which are supportive of the answers/basis of the question.	Sometimes overlooks details that could be very beneficial to the answers/basis of the question.		X 3	
Knowledge of agriculture	Answer shows knowledge of agriculture.	Answer shows limited knowledge of agriculture.	Answer shows no knowledge of agriculture.		X 3	

Grand  
 Total Points  
 Time  
 Deduction  
 \* Accuracy  
 Deduction  
**\*\* NET**  
**TOTAL**  
**POINTS**  
**RANK**

\*-1 point per second over, determined by the timekeepers  
 \*\* - 2 points per word, determined by the accuracy judges

# SAMPLE Without Judges Assigned

Friday, May 22, 2020

Begins at 8:30 AM

8:30 – 8:40  
8:40 – 8:50  
8:50 – 9:00  
9:00 – 9:10  
9:10 – 9:20  
9:20 – 9:30  
9:30 – 9:40

Semi-Final  
Room 1  
Hannah Orozco – Bakersfield Independence  
Tiffany Kelton – Fresno Central  
Susie Phillips – Central Valley Christian  
Trista Fry – Kingsburg  
Kylee Tripp – North Bakersfield  
Macy Loyd – Sierra  
Sophia Gomes – Tulare

8:30 – 8:40  
8:40 – 8:50  
8:50 – 9:00  
9:00 – 9:10  
9:10 – 9:20  
9:20 – 9:30  
9:30 – 9:40  
9:40 – 9:50

Semi-Final  
Room 2  
Mayci Cavazos – Bakersfield Frontier  
Abigail Cook – Bakersfield Christian  
Ashley Brasil – Central Valley Christian  
Nicholas Santos – Chowchilla  
Erika Nyberg – Clovis  
Gabriella Camou – Garces Memorial  
Gianna Simoes - Tulare  
Declan Swigart – Hanford

8:30 – 8:40  
8:40 – 8:50  
8:50 – 9:00  
9:00 – 9:10  
9:10 – 9:20  
9:20 – 9:30  
9:30 – 9:40  
9:40 – 9:50

Semi-Final  
Room 3  
Angelica Rasmussen – Bakersfield Foothill  
Lesley Machado – Madera  
Dyanna Limon – Wasco  
Zachary Ergo – Kingsburg  
Stan Pryor – North Bakersfield  
Jessica Henderson – Woodlake  
John Michael Ribeiro – Tulare  
Joshua Borba – Hanford

Room 1 Zoom Link:

<https://calpoly.zoom.us/j/92155579993>

Room 2 Zoom Link:

<https://calpoly.zoom.us/j/92015185267>

Room 3 Zoom Link:

<https://calpoly.zoom.us/j/91877326656>

Three judges per room – each judge asks one question, 5-minute max for questions.

One accuracy judge – prompt speaker and control admission.

Competitor every 10 minutes.

Up to 30 minutes for tabulations and announcing results.

# SAMPLE With Judges Assigned

Friday, May 22, 2020

Final Results posted at 11:30 AM

Begins at 8:30 AM

8:30 – 8:40  
8:40 – 8:50  
8:50 – 9:00  
9:00 – 9:10  
9:10 – 9:20  
9:20 – 9:30  
9:30 – 9:40

Semi-Final Room 1  
Hannah Orozco – Bakersfield Independence  
Tiffany Kelton – Fresno Central  
Susie Phillips – Central Valley Christian  
Trista Fry – Kingsburg  
Kylee Tripp – North Bakersfield  
Macy Loyd – Sierra  
Sophia Gomes – Tulare

Judges:  
Peggy Flynn  
Janice Souza  
Jeremy Koontz  
**Jeff Clark**

8:30 – 8:40  
8:40 – 8:50  
8:50 – 9:00  
9:00 – 9:10  
9:10 – 9:20  
9:20 – 9:30  
9:30 – 9:40  
9:40 – 9:50

Semi-Final Room 2  
Mayci Cavazos – Bakersfield Frontier  
Abigail Cook – Bakersfield Christian  
Ashley Brasil – Central Valley Christian  
Nicholas Santos – Chowchilla  
Erika Nyberg – Clovis  
Gabiella Camou – Garces Memorial  
Gianna Simoes - Tulare  
Declan Swigart – Hanford

Judges:  
Kaitlyn McFarlan  
Amanda Stevenson  
Ashley Waymire  
**Haley Olson**

8:30 – 8:40  
8:40 – 8:50  
8:50 – 9:00  
9:00 – 9:10  
9:10 – 9:20  
9:20 – 9:30  
9:30 – 9:40  
9:40 – 9:50

Semi-Final Room 3  
Angelica Rasmussen – Bakersfield Foothill  
Lesley Machado – Madera  
Dyanna Limon – Wasco  
Zachary Ergo – Kingsburg  
Stan Pryor – North Bakersfield  
Jessica Henderson – Woodlake  
John Michael Ribeiro – Tulare  
Joshua Borba – Hanford

Judges:  
Janae Lewis  
Debbie Benson  
Savhanna Reaber  
**Gissel Neri Corrales**

Begins at 10:40 AM

**Final Round**  
1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place from each  
semi-final room

Judges:  
Yvonne Staffler  
Audrey Lent  
Tyler Dickinson  
**Angel Carrillo**

Three judges per room – each judge asks one question, 5-minute max for questions.

One accuracy judge – prompt speaker and control admission.

Competitor every 10 minutes.

Up to 30 minutes for tabulations and announcing results.

## Sample Email Templates:

### **To Potential Judges**

*Good Afternoon,*

*I hope this email finds you doing well. You are receiving this email because your name was submitted as a potential judge for the upcoming FFA Creed Contest that will be held on Monday, June 29th. We would like for you to participate as a judge for the contest.*

*The contest will begin at 9am and each judge will be assigned either the semifinals round at 9am or the finals round at 12:30pm. Your time commitment will be no longer than 3 hours on the day of the contest. Please plan to log in 15 minutes before judging begins. This will give us time to organize rooms and answer any questions you may have.*

*This Friday I will send you the Zoom link for the contest and a detailed PDF handout for judges. This packet will give you an idea on how the contest will be ran, it will also tell you what time you will be needed to judge and will also have all of the links needed for the contest. It is important to note that all scoring for the contest will all be done electronically. I have attached the rubric/scorecard for your review. Please print if you would like to make notes as you judge, however all judging will be done digitally.*

***If you are not able to judge, please notify me ASAP by replying to this email.***

*I appreciate you volunteering your time in helping to make the LDE's possible for our FFA members. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.*

*Thank you!*

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*Good Afternoon,*

**To Judges**

*Please find attached the final judging instructions for the California FFA State Finals Creed Contest. Please read through the entire packet before the contest begins on Monday. We will meet **15 minutes before the start of the contest** at 8:15am to go over any questions you may have and logistical information to allow for a successful contest.*

*Preliminary rounds begin at 9am and the finals round begins at 12:30pm. In the PDF document you will find the links for the Zoom meeting and the Scorecards, along with your assigned time to judge. Everything will be done electronically this year.*

*Please remember that this information is given to you with trust that this will not be distributed or used in any way. Thank you for your time and help in making this contest happen for CA FFA students, we appreciate you.*

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Good \_\_\_\_\_,

### **To Speakers**

*Congratulations on qualifying to participate in the FFA Creed Contest. It has taken a lot of hard work and dedication to make it to this point. You should be proud of your efforts!*

*At 9:00 AM the contest will begin. You will be asked to log on to the Zoom call **10 minutes prior** to your speaking time. Please find attached a schedule for the day.*

***If you do not plan to compete in the FFA Creed speaking contest, please notify me and your Ag Teacher by tomorrow at 5:00 PM.***

Results will be announced on Monday June 29, 2020 on Facebook.

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*Good Afternoon Students and Advisors,*

*The FFA Creed contest will start on Monday, June 8th at **9 am**. Contestants should refer to the schedule that is attached for their speaking times. Please show up 5 minutes early to your scheduled contest time. Once you enter the Zoom meeting, you will be in the "waiting room" and will be moved to your appropriate judging room.*

*The preliminary rounds will go from 9 am - 10:30 am. After 10:30 am, the judges will submit their scores and the top three contestants from each room to go to the final round. I will notify students and teachers via email with a new schedule for the final round along with the names of who will advance to the next round. The final round will start at 12:00pm.*

*Students may choose to sit or stand to deliver their speech. Students may use a phone, but a computer is suggested. When delivering your speech, please make sure you are in the parameters of the Zoom screen.*

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*Good Morning,*

*Thank you again for participating in today's contest. All contestants did an outstanding job and should be very proud of themselves for making it to the regional level.*

*The top three from each room have been selected and will be competing in the final round. The final round will start at 12:00pm. If you are on the list, please log into Zoom 10 minutes before your scheduled time. The new Zoom link and order of presentation is in the attached spreadsheet.*

*Thank you again for competing and congratulations to the top six for making it to the final round.*