

Maryland FFA Association, Inc.

Outstanding Greenhand Award

Purpose: The Outstanding Maryland Greenhand Award promotes excellence and encourages new FFA members who are developing their Supervised Agricultural Experience program, leadership skills, and general knowledge of the FFA to further their development. This program is sponsored by the Elmer L. Cooper Memorial Fund as a special project of the Maryland FFA Foundation, Inc. This endowment was established for the purpose of funding programs and activities through the Maryland FFA Association that promote the development of future leaders in agriculture. Dr. Cooper was a State Program Specialist in Agriculture at the MD State Department of Education, a high school teacher at North Harford High school and Teacher Educator in the Agricultural Education Department at the University of Maryland, College Park.

Guidelines:

1. Applications are limited to one per chapter. Though not required, it is strongly recommended that this applicant be the chapter's Star Greenhand Degree recipient.
2. Applicants must be an active member and hold the Greenhand FFA Degree but not yet hold the Chapter FFA Degree.
3. Complete application packets must be received by May 1.
4. Five Regional Finalists and One State winner will be announced at the annual Maryland State FFA Convention.

Awards: Each Chapter Star Greenhand will receive a new FFA Jacket. The 5 Regional Star Greenhands, in addition to the FFA Jacket, will receive an award plaque and their way paid to attend the Maryland FFA State Convention. The State Star will receive a new FFA Jacket, award plaque and a scholarship to attend the Washington Leadership Conference (WLC). The scholarship will cover the registration fee for the selected member to attend the conference. Transportation, chaperone, and any additional costs will be the responsibility of the member. To allow for scheduling and registration, this scholarship will be made available for the member to attend the Washington Leadership Conference the year it is awarded or the following year.

How to Apply: An application packet must be submitted to Terrie Shank, Maryland FFA Executive Director by May 1 that includes the following:

1. Completed and signed application.
2. One (1) single page essay on the topic listed in the application.
3. Two (2) letters of recommendation. One must be from the chapter advisor and one from a school or community member. Letters from family members are strongly discouraged.

Selection process:

1. All name and chapter identifying components of the application packet will be removed and applications will be assigned numbers.
2. All applications, including essay content, will then be independently reviewed by each of the current Maryland State FFA Officers using the provided score sheet. Essay syntax and overall composition will be scored separately.
3. Scores will be compiled and a winner determined to be the one with the highest composite score. Ties will be broken using the total essay score.

Maryland FFA Outstanding Greenhand Award Application Packet Scoring Guidelines

Scoring Area	Max	80- 100% of Points	50-80% of points	20-50% of points	0-20% of points
Overall Neatness	5	Typed and clean and clear (5 points)	Typed and unclear or unclean (3 points)	Hand written (1 point)	Illegible (0 points)
Academic Information	10	Shows current and continued agriculture coursework and outstanding academic achievement	Shows limited agriculture coursework and/ or moderate academic achievement	n/a	No agriculture classes, GPA< 1, absent (0 points)
SAE Plans	25	Shows clear thought, planning and foresight in the key areas.	General in nature with limited attention to details in the key areas.	Ambivalent, with no real plan in the key areas.	Absent
FFA Leadership Activities	20	Shows diverse chapter involvement	Shows moderate involvement in chapter and FFA activities	Shows limited chapter involvement outside degree required activities	Absent
Community Activities	15	Shows a wide range of involvement	Shows a limited range of involvement	Shows limited overall involvement	Absent
Signature Page	5	Complete	n/a	n/a	Missing any signatures
Advisor Letter	10	Letter offers additional insight into the member's involvement, academics, character, and potential.	Included- (7 points)	n/a	Absent
School/ Community Letter	10	Letter offers additional insight into the member's involvement, academics, character, and potential.	Included- (7 points)	n/a	Absent
Essay Content	40	Clear ability to answer the essay question in a meaningful and interesting way. Answer shows understanding and creativity.	Essay may offer a clear response but does not engage the reader's interest. Descriptions may not complete an argument being made.	Response has no identifiable personal connection. Thoughts are incomplete but meaning is inferable.	Essay does not relate to the given topic. Content is inconsistent or shows limited understanding of the topic. Absent
Essay Composition	10	Logical construction and shows limited or no grammatical errors	Generally coherent construction with limited to no grammatical errors	Limited flow of ideas throughout essay possibly with a moderate number of grammatical errors	Errors in grammar disrupt the expression of ideas. No coherence or flow of thought. Absent

Absent: Zero points should be given for any component that is absent from the application packet.

SAE Key Areas: Opportunities and challenges, Identification of goals, Understanding of SAE and the agricultural education model