



2017-2021 Opening and Closing Ceremony LDE



Purpose: The Opening and Closing Ceremony LCD event is designed to develop agricultural leadership by providing for FFA members participation in public speaking activities and stimulating interest in leadership and citizenship.

Eligibility: The participants must be members of a chartered Connecticut FFA Association chapter in grade 9 and 10.

Event Procedures:

1. At each level, a LDE coordinator and three judges will be in charge of this event.
2. This LDE will be held in two rounds at the state level. Each chapter may only enter one team. All teams compete during round one with the three highest placing teams advancing to round two. If there are five or fewer teams, only one round will be held.
3. Each participant must be in Official Dress. Official Dress will be scored on each team member, and the average team Official Dress score will be added to the final score for their presentation to determine the winner.
4. The event officials will randomly determine the competition order. The program chairman
5. Shall introduce each chapter by name and order of drawing. Applause shall be withheld until all participants have competed.
6. At the time of the event the judges will be seated in different sections of the room in which the event is held. They will score each chapter on the delivery, according to the score sheet provided.
7. The team will perform the opening and closing statement as per the Official FFA Manual (see attached script).
8. Only the six constitutional officers and advisor portion will participate.
9. All parts will be performed by team members (NO ADVISORS WILL PARTICIPATE WITH THEIR TEAM - their part will be performed by a student.)
10. The officer team will be responsible for placing station markers around the room as per the attached design. A maximum of five minutes will be allotted for set-up.
11. The teams shall make no other items of business or transitional statements between the opening and closing ceremony.
12. It is recommended that individuals be selected to check for accuracy during the event at all levels
13. Recognition: Students and teams will be recognized during the second session of the State FFA Conference.

References: Official FFA Manual

Attachments: Score Sheet

Official Script: Room Set-Up Sheet

2017-2021 Opening and Closing Ceremony LDE

OPENING CEREMONIES

Ceremonies emphasize the purpose of them meeting, the duties of the officers and the significance of recognition given to individuals.

All official ceremonies are to be memorized, rehearsed and conducted with pride and dignity. A “walk-through” in the room where the meeting, banquet or special function is to be held will ensure a smooth performance if proper physical arrangements are complete and all parties know their responsibilities and speaking assignments. Never forget that you and your chapter are on display. Your performance should reflect sincerity and leadership.

Correct terminology according to gender. For example use “madam president” in addressing a female president. Often it is possible to replace gender specific items with nonsexist language, i.e. Mary Smith presiding; Fred Jones presiding.

Opening the Meeting

(When the time set for the opening of the meeting arrives, the president, after quietly arranging for any necessary substitutions, rises, taps for attention, secures order and proceeds as indicated below. The other officers rise as called upon by the vice president and remain standing until seated by the president)

President: "The (meeting room, banquet hall, etc.) will come to order. We are now holding a meeting of the (chapter, district, etc.) FFA (Chapter, District, etc.). Mr./Mdm. Vice President, are all officers at their stations?"

Vice President: (Rising and facing the president) "I shall call the roll of officers, determine if they are at their stations and report back to you, Mr./Mdm. President."

Vice President: (Calling role of officers) "The sentinel."

Sentinel: "Stationed by the door."

Vice President: "Your duties there?"

Sentinel: "Through this door pass many friends of the FFA. It is my duty to see that the door is open to our friends at all times and that they are welcome. I care for the meeting room and paraphernalia. I strive to keep the room comfortable and assist the president in maintaining order."

Vice President: "The reporter."

Reporter: "The reporter is stationed by the flag."

Vice President: "Why by the flag?"

Reporter: "As the flag covers the United States of America, so I strive to inform the people in order that every man woman and child may know that the FFA is a national organization that reaches from the state of Alaska to Virgin Islands and from the state of Maine to Hawaii."

Vice President: "The treasurer."

Treasurer: "Stationed at the emblem of Washington."

Vice President: "Your duties there?"

2017-2021 Opening and Closing Ceremony LDE

Treasurer: I keep a record of receipts and disbursements just as Washington kept his farm accounts -- carefully and accurately. I encourage thrift among the members and strive to build up our financial standing through savings and investments. George Washington was better able to serve his country because he was financially independent.

Vice President: "The secretary."

Secretary: "Stationed by the ear of corn."

Vice President: "Your duties there."

Secretary: "I keep an accurate record of all meetings and correspond with other secretaries wherever corn is grown and FFA members meet.

Vice President: "The advisor."

Advisor: "Here by the owl."

Vice President: "Why stationed by the owl."

Advisor: The owl is a time-honored emblem of knowledge and wisdom. Being older than the rest of you, I am asked to advise you from time to time, as the need arises. I hope that my advice will always be based on true knowledge and ripened with wisdom.

"Mr./Mdm. Vice President, why do you keep a plow at your station?"

Vice President: "The plow is the symbol of labor and tillage of the soil. Without labor, neither knowledge nor wisdom can accomplish much. My duties require me to assist at all times in directing the work of our organization. I preside over meetings in the absence of our president, whose place is beneath the rising sun."

Advisor: "Why is the president so stationed?"

Vice President: "The rising sun is the token of a new era in agriculture. If we will follow the leadership of our president, we shall be led out of the darkness of selfishness and into the glorious sunlight of brotherhood and cooperation. Mr./Mdm. President, all officers are at their stations."

President: (Rises and faces the vice president) "Thank you, Mr./Mdm. Vice President." (All take seats at tap of gavel.) "The secretary will call the roll of members."

Secretary: "There are . . . members and . . . guests present, Mr./Mdm. President."

President: "Thank you. FFA members, why are we here." (All members stand at 3 taps of gavel.)

All members in unison: "To practice brotherhood, honor agricultural opportunities and responsibilities, and develop those qualities of leadership which an FFA member should possess." (All are seated at 1 tap of gavel.)

President: "May we accomplish our purposes. I now declare this meeting of the (chapter, district, etc.) FFA (Chapter, District, etc.) duly opened for the transaction of business, or attention to any matters which may properly be presented." (Proceed with the regular order of business. See pages 22 and 23.)

2017-2021 Opening and Closing Ceremony LDE

CLOSING CEREMONIES

Closing the Meeting (For this event – the President will not present agendas or transactions for this mock meeting, but immediately move to close the meeting)

President: "Mr./Mdm. Secretary, do you have a record of any further business which should now be transacted?"

Secretary: (Rises, replies and is seated.) "I have none, Mr./Mdm. President."

President: "Does any member know of any new or unfinished business which should properly come before this meeting?" (If no answer, proceed as follows.)

"We are about to adjourn this meeting of the (chapter, district, etc.) FFA (Chapter, District, etc.). As we mingle with others, let us be diligent in labor, just in our dealings, courteous to everyone, and, above all, honest and fair in the game of life. Fellow members and guests, join me in a salute to our flag."

(Taps three times with gavel to call members to stand, face the flag at the reporter's station and with their right hands over their hearts, repeat the following pledge.)

All in unison: I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

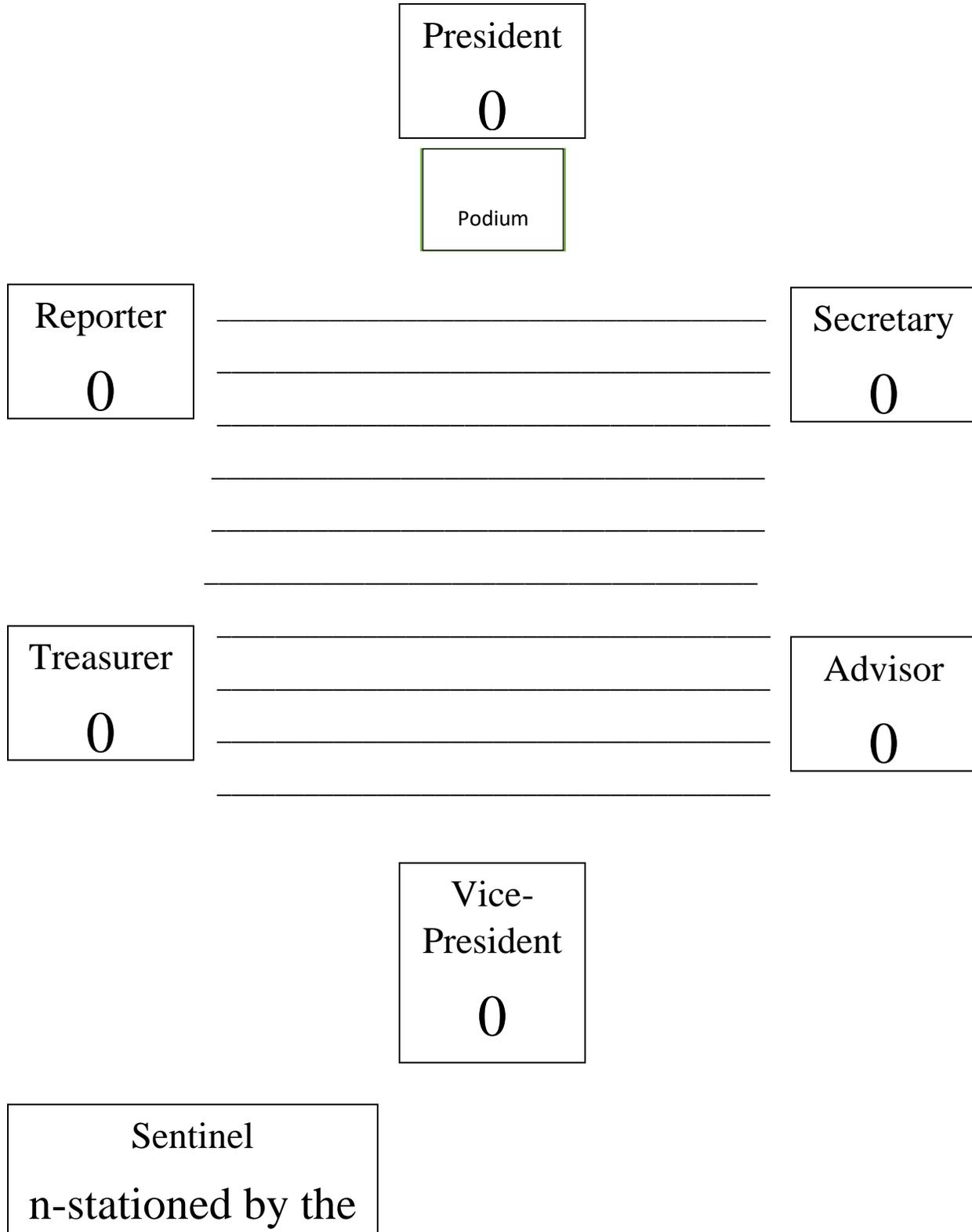
President: "I now declare this meeting adjourned." (Taps once with gavel and the meeting is adjourned.)

(The secretary may call the complete roll if necessary and report on that basis. However, it is a time-consuming procedure for a local chapter when all members' names are in the Secretary's book where they can be quickly consulted and checked before

2017-2021 Opening and Closing Ceremony LDE

OFFICIAL OPENING/CLOSING CEREMONY MEETING ROOM SET UP

An organized meeting room will set the proper stage for conducting chapter business. The correct room arrangement for a meeting is diagrammed below.



2017-2021 Opening and Closing Ceremony LDE

Points Possible	Scoring Category	Judge's Notes	Team 1	Team 2	Team 3	Team 4	Team 5	Team 6
70	Room Set-Up (10 points per station marker)							
350	Performance of Officer Parts (50 points per part. Five point deduction for each word missed, etc.)							
30	Appearance and Style of Delivery							
50	Voice and Inflection of Team							
25	Poise of Presiding Officer							
Deductions	Official Dress Deduction (maximum 35 pts)							
525	Total Team Scores							

2017-2021 Opening and Closing Ceremony LDE

JUDGES OFFICIAL DRESS SCORE SHEET

Directions: Present this form to the judges so they can adjust scores accordingly. Judges are to return this form to the LDE Coordinator following the completion of the event. The team does not receive anything for having all students in official dress, but deductions will occur if they are not. The standard deduction is five points per individual with a maximum of 35 points per team.

Team 1	Team 2	Team 3
1.)	1.)	1.)
2.)	2.)	2.)
3.)	3.)	3.)
4.)	4.)	4.)
5.)	5.)	5.)
6.)	6.)	6.)
7.)	7.)	7.)
Deduction Total	Deduction Total	Deduction Total
Team 4	Team 5	Team 6
1.)	1.)	1.)
2.)	2.)	2.)
3.)	3.)	3.)
4.)	4.)	4.)
5.)	5.)	5.)
6.)	6.)	6.)
7.)	7.)	7.)
Deduction Total	Deduction Total	Deduction Total
Team 7	Team 8	Team 9
1.)	1.)	1.)
2.)	2.)	2.)
3.)	3.)	3.)
4.)	4.)	4.)
5.)	5.)	5.)
6.)	6.)	6.)
7.)	7.)	7.)
Deduction Total	Deduction Total	Deduction Total