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South District FFA Spring Newsletter

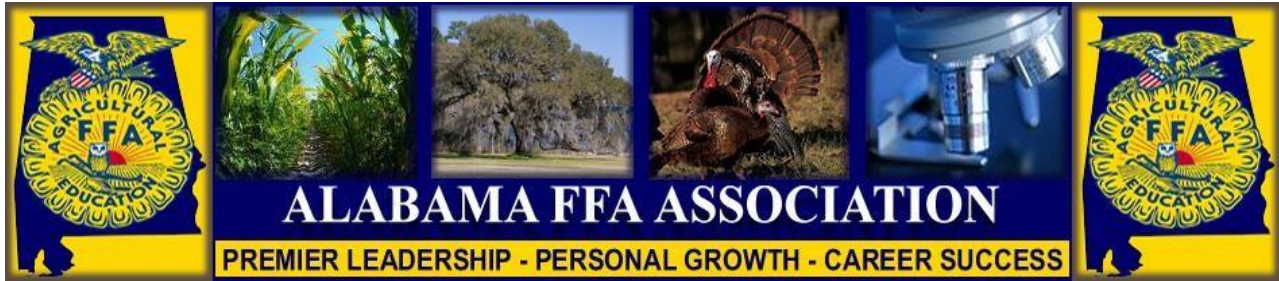
A Special Thanks

This year has been a life changing experience for all of us. I now have friends that will last a life time. It's sad to say our year together is over, but now we can pass along the opportunities we had to the new South District Officers. I am proud of all our accomplishments as a team. I would like to thank Cameron, Bryce, Grady, Cal, and Gracie for such a great year full of life long memories!! The State officers Becky, Ethan, Torran, Sierra, Ben, and Hannah for teaching us at DOLC. I will never forget it! Lastly, I would like to thank all of the chapters in the South District for all of your accomplishments this past year!

South District Reporter

Caitlyn Nolin





The Road Thus Far

District Officer Retreat in Andalusia. It was at this retreat we developed our speeches, set our Program of Activities, and received our County Responsibilities. In September, we enjoyed Fall Eliminations in Atmore. This gave us just a small taste of what to expect in March at Spring Eliminations. Beyond these events, the team met monthly. On April 26, 2016, a new slate of South District Officers were selected after district interviews. Little did we know we were gaining life-long friends. Since the district officer team was set at interviews, we held our first official meeting before state convention. It was slightly awkward because we were in a room with 6 other individuals we knew very little about. By the end of the meeting we knew a lot about each other and could not wait to see each other again at state convention. State Convention was an awesome time for us. Some of us competed in state CDE's, while others traveled to watch the sessions and visit friends. On the final day of convention, the team met and sat together to watch the last session. Tears were shed as we watched the 2015-2016 state officer team hang up their jackets and during the election of the new state officer team. At the conclusion of the convention, the officer team met backstage to discuss the District Officer Leadership Conference (DOLC) and to receive our district attire. Reality set in because we were officially district officers. We had the jackets to prove it. A few short weeks later, the team was in Columbiana for District Officer Leadership Conference (DOLC). DOLC was a unique experience that helped the team grow closer together. There was a traveling trophy to be awarded after each session and at the conclusion of the conference to the "best" district officer team. To reflect the Olympic-themed conference, the traveling trophy for DOLC was a torch. The only rule about the torch was that it could be stolen at any given time. Our officer team was successful in earning and stealing the trophy on multiple occasions, but was chosen as the overall best team earning the right to keep the traveling trophy. Whether it was time spent stealing the torch, having reflections, or pumping up the energy during workshops, every minute of DOLC was a blast. After leaving DOLC, the team set out on the following Monday to travel to Daphne and Rehobeth for our Chapter Officer Leadership Workshops (COLW). It is safe to say we enjoyed decorating for our "Finding Leadership" theme which was a spin-off on Finding Dory. The late nights practicing our workshops, blowing up beach balls for Caitlyn, and cracking jokes will forever be cherished. At the end of summer, we all came together for our South meetings gave us opportunities to reunite, give updates on the district, and present programs. The highlight of our officer terms was Spring Eliminations. With 940 individuals, 52 chapters, and 247 teams registered, this year's Spring Eliminations were a BIG deal. This event meant so much to the team because we knew it would be our largest attended gathering and the last time reciting opening ceremonies as a team. The team was honored to have five visiting state officers. They did a fantastic job helping out any way they could. My fellow officers and I would like to extend a thank you to everyone who attended the 2017 South District Spring Eliminations and say good luck to those who advanced to state competition in June. It is evident we will be #SouthDistrictStrong on June 6th. Stay tuned to see the South District Officers perform on stage introductions at the State FFA Convention in June. This event will mark the end of our terms and the passing of our torch to the next generation of the South District.

**Serve Always,
Cameron and Bryce**

#ForeverBlue

Alabama State Department of Education, Michael Sentance, State Superintendent of Education

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