

***CREED SPEAKING  
LEADERSHIP  
DEVELOPMENT EVENT***

*RULES AND REGULATIONS*  
INDIVIDUAL COMPETITION



***ALABAMA FFA ASSOCIATION***

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Alabama State Department of Education, Dr. Eric G. Mackey, State Superintendent of Education

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## **CREED SPEAKING LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT EVENT**

### **PURPOSE**

The Creed Speaking Leadership Development Event is designed to develop agricultural leadership by providing FFA members in Grades 7-9 an opportunity to participate in a leadership development activity.

### **ELIGIBILITY AND REGULATIONS**

Participation is limited to dues paying FFA members in Grades 7-9.

An elimination event at the county level must be held to determine the county winner. Only the winner from each county is eligible to participate in the area and/or the district events. If only one chapter has an entry, this participant is automatically the county winner, thus no need for a county event to be held.

The first and second place winners in the North, Central and South Districts will compete in the state finals.

### **DISCLAIMER**

In the event that contests (CDE, LDE, TDE's) cannot be held in person, a virtual option may be conducted. Contest rules and guidelines are subject to change to meet the needs of a virtual experience.

### **STATE AWARDS/SPONSOR(S):**

Refer to Alabama FFA Contests and Awards Booklet at:  
[http://www.alabamaffa.org/forms\\_applications.htm](http://www.alabamaffa.org/forms_applications.htm)

### **EVENT RULES**

1. The Creed Speaking Leadership Development Event is limited to dues paying FFA members in Grades 7-9.
2. Participants shall be in (FFA) official dress as defined in the *Official FFA Manual*.
3. Three competent and impartial persons will be selected to judge the event. At least one judge should have an agricultural/FFA background.
4. A timekeeper will keep time for each participant and inform the judges of any penalty points to be deducted from a participant's score.
5. An accuracy judge will score each participant on the accuracy of their delivery of the FFA Creed. The accuracy judge will keep track of recitation errors, which are

defined as the substitution, repetition, addition and/or omission of a word. For each recitation error there will be a 20 point deduction. Errors are considered on a per word basis. If a student gets “stuck” during their delivery for longer than 15 seconds, the accuracy judge will give them a one word prompt for the point deduction of missing a word.

6. Each participant shall be asked the same questions. There will be no two part questions asked during the competition. Opinion questions should be scored on the method of delivery.
7. The participants will draw for the order of presenting at the beginning of the event.
8. If a cell phone is seen or heard in the possession of a competitor, that individual competitor will be disqualified from competition and receive a score of zero.
9. Time begins when time keeper announces, “Time begins...” (Participant must wait for time keeper’s announcement before beginning speech.)

## **EVENT FORMAT**

1. The event will include both an oral presentation as well as answering questions directly related to the FFA Creed. Each contestant will be asked three questions, with a five minute time limit. The questions will be formulated annually by the Creed Speaking Leadership Development Event committee and will avoid two part questions. Sample questions are provided on the forms and applications page of [www.alabamaffa.org](http://www.alabamaffa.org)
2. Members will present the FFA Creed from the current year’s Official FFA manual.
3. The event will be a timed activity with four minutes for presentation. After four minutes, the contestant will be deducted 1 point for every second over four minutes.
4. Each contestant must recite the FFA Creed from memory. Each contestant shall begin the presentation by stating “The FFA Creed by E.M. Tiffany.” Each contestant shall end the presentation with the statement “ ... that inspiring task. Thank you.”
5. Contestants will be held in isolation until their presentation. Contestants will not be allowed to have contact from any outside persons until their recitation is complete. Speakers will not hear each other’s speech. Only members or representatives (parents and/or advisor) of the speaker’s chapter will be allowed to observe. Contest officials reserve the right to ask anyone whom is a distraction to the speaker to leave.
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 participant on the delivery of the Creed, using the score sheet provided.
7. A timekeeper shall be designated who will record the time used by each participant in delivering his/her speech.

8. An accuracy judge will record the number of recitation errors during delivery.
9. When participants have finished speaking each judge will total the score of each speaker. The timekeeper's and accuracy judge's records will be used in computing the final score for each participant. The judges' score sheets will then be submitted to event officials to determine final ratings of participants.
10. 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 (low point score method of selection).

## **TIEBREAKERS**

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 person in charge of the event will rank the participant's response to questions. The participant with the greatest number of low ranks from the response to questions will be declared the winner. If a tie still exists then the participant's raw scores will be totaled. The participant with the greatest total of raw points will be declared the winner.

## **REFERENCES**

This list of references is not intended to be inclusive. Other sources may be utilized and teachers are encouraged to make use of the very best instructional materials available.

The following list contains references that may prove helpful during event preparation.

*Current year's Official FFA Manual*

## **OFFICIAL DRESS**

### **Male Members**

Black slacks, white collared shirt, official FFA tie, black socks, black dress shoes, and the official jacket zipped to the top. Bow ties are not considered official dress.

### **Female Members**

Black skirt, white collared blouse with official FFA blue scarf, black nylon hosiery, black dress shoes with a closed heel and toe, and the official jacket zipped to the top.

### Official FFA Creed Speaking LDE Scoring Rubric

**Speaker's Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Chapter:** \_\_\_\_\_

Oral Communication – 200 points						
Indicators	Very strong evidence skill is present 5-4	Moderate evidence skill is present 3-2	Strong evidence skill is not present 1-0	Points Earned	Weight	Total Score
A. Speaking without hesitation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Speaks very articulately without hesitation.</li> <li>Never has the need for unnecessary pauses or hesitation when speaking.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Speaks articulately but sometimes hesitates.</li> <li>Occasionally has the need for a long pause or moderate hesitation when speaking.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Speaks articulately but frequently hesitates.</li> <li>Frequently hesitates or has long, awkward pauses while speaking.</li> </ul>		X 20	
B. Pace	Speaks at a moderate pace to be clear.	Speaks at a moderate pace most of the time but shows some nervousness.	Pace is too fast/slow; nervous.		X 5	
C. 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 5	
D. Pronunciation	Pronunciation of words is very clear and intent is apparent.	Pronunciation of words is usually clear; sometimes mumbled.	Pronunciation of words is difficult to understand; unclear.		X 5	
E. 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 5	
Non-verbal Communication – 400 points						
A. Attention (eye contact)	Eye contact constantly used as an effective connection. • Constantly looks at the entire audience (90-100% of the time).	Eye contact is mostly effective and consistent. • Mostly looks around the audience (60-80% of the time).	Eye contact does not always allow connection with the speaker. • Occasionally looks at someone or some groups (less than 50% of the time).		X 20	
B. Mannerisms	Does not have distracting mannerisms that affect effectiveness. • No nervous habits.	Sometimes has distracting mannerisms that pull from the presentation. • Sometimes exhibits nervous habits or ticks.	Has mannerisms that pull from the effectiveness of the presentation. • Displays some nervous habits – fidgets or anxious ticks.		X 20	
C. Gestures	Gestures are purposeful and effective. • Hand motions are expressive and used to emphasize talking points. • Great posture (confident) with positive body language.	Usually uses purposeful gestures. • Hands are sometimes used to express or emphasize. • Occasionally slumps; sometimes negative body language.	Occasionally gestures are used effectively. • Hands are not used to emphasize talking points; hand motions are sometimes distracting. • Lacks positive body language; slumps.		X 20	
D. Well poised	Is extremely well poised. • Poised and in control at all times.	Usually is well poised. • Poised and in control most of the time; rarely loses composure.	Isn't always well poised. • Sometimes seems to lose composure.		X 20	
Question and Answer—400 points						
A. Being detail oriented	Is able to stay fully detail oriented. • Always provides details that support answers/basis of the question.	Is mostly good at being detail oriented. • Usually provides details that are supportive of the answers/basis of the question.	Has difficulty being detail oriented. • Sometimes overlooks details that could be very beneficial to the answers/basis of the question.		X 30	
B. Speaking unrehearsed	Speaks unrehearsed with comfort and ease. • Is able to speak quickly with organized thoughts and concise answers.	Speaks unrehearsed mostly with comfort and ease, but sometimes seems nervous or unsure. • Is able to speak effectively; has to stop and think and sometimes gets off focus.	Shows nervousness or seems unprepared when speaking unrehearsed. • Seems to ramble or speaks before thinking.		X 30	
C. Examples used in response to questions	Examples are vivid, precise and clearly explained. • Examples are original, logical and relevant.	Examples are usually concrete, sometimes needs clarification. • Examples are effective but need more originality or thought.	Examples are abstract or not clearly defined. • Examples are sometimes confusing, leaving the listeners with questions.		X20	
Gross Total Points						
Accuracy Deduction: - 20 points per word, determined by the accuracy judge.						
Time Deductions: -1 point per second over, determined by the timekeepers.						
Net Total Points						
Rank						
*Judges will select three questions, Questions will be selected from a data bank of questions that were developed by the Creed LDE Committee.						
**Members competing who are not in official dress will be deducted 40 points. See page 5 for definition of official dress.						

<b>Accuracy Judge Score Sheet</b>
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<b>Participant's Name</b> _____	<b>Chapter</b> _____
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<b>Grade (Circle one):</b>	7 <sup>th</sup>	8 <sup>th</sup>	9 <sup>th</sup>
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The FFA Creed by E. M. Tiffany.

I believe in the future of agriculture, with a faith born not of words but of deeds--achievements won by the present and past generations of agriculturists; in the promise of better days through better ways, even as the better things we now enjoy have come to us from the struggles of former years.

I believe that to live and work on a good farm, or to be engaged in other agricultural pursuits, is pleasant as well as challenging; for I know the joys and discomforts of agricultural life and hold an inborn fondness for those associations which, even in hours of discouragement, I cannot deny.

I believe in leadership from ourselves and respect from others. I believe in my own ability to work efficiently and think clearly, with such knowledge and skill as I can secure, and in the ability of progressive agriculturists to serve our own and the public interest in producing and marketing the product of our toil.

I believe in less dependence on begging and more power in bargaining; in the life abundant and enough honest wealth to help make it so--for others as well as myself; in less need for charity and more of it when needed; in being happy myself and playing square with those whose happiness depends upon me.

I believe that American agriculture can and will hold true to the best traditions of our national life and that I can exert an influence in my home and community which will stand solid for my part in that inspiring task. Thank you.

<b>Points Deduction (20 points per recitation error)</b>
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<b>Number of recitation errors:</b> _____ x 20 points = _____ points deduction
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**Creed Speaking Leadership Development Event****Timekeeper's Record Sheet**

<b>Speaker</b>	<b>Time of Speech</b>	<b>Penalty Points*</b>
Speaker No. ____	Minutes    Seconds	
Speaker No. ____	Minutes    Seconds	
Speaker No. ____	Minutes    Seconds	
Speaker No. ____	Minutes    Seconds	
Speaker No. ____	Minutes    Seconds	
Speaker No. ____	Minutes    Seconds	
Speaker No. ____	Minutes    Seconds	
Speaker No. ____	Minutes    Seconds	
Speaker No. ____	Minutes    Seconds	

**\*Penalty Points:      1 point per second over 4 minutes.**



## CREED SPEAKING LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT EVENT

### SUMMARY SHEET

When all participants have finished, the judges will retire and make their placings (1, 2, 3, etc.) without any discussion. The judges' rankings of each participant then shall be added, and the winner will be the participant whose total ranking (score) is the lowest. This is the low point score method of selection.

The person in charge will assist by recording the final placings of each judge on the Summary Sheet to determine the winners. In case of a tie, ties will be broken based on the greatest number of low ranks. Participants' low rankings will be counted and the participant with the greatest number of low rankings will be declared the winner. If a tie still exists, then the person in charge of the event will rank the participant's response to questions. The participant with the greatest number of low ranks from the response to questions will be declared the winner. If a tie still exists, then the participant's raw scores will be totaled. The participant with the greatest total of raw points will be declared the winner.

The Summary Sheet should be checked and double-checked before the winners are announced. The decision announced is final! The individual score sheets should be destroyed immediately by the judges; no one else will be allowed to see the score sheets.

Judges	Participants Names and Placing of Participants by Judges (1 <sup>st</sup> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 4 <sup>th</sup> , etc.)							
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Judge 1								
Judge 2								
Judge 3								
<b>TOTAL SCORE*</b>								
<b>Final Placing</b>								

**\*TOTAL SCORE:** The Total Score is the sum of the placing given to a participant by each of the three judges. The low score wins.