



Jim Graham Creed Speaking LDE

Purpose

The Jim Graham Creed Speaking Career Development Event is named for the late Jim Graham, who served the citizens of North Carolina for 36 years as our Commissioner of Agriculture. This event provides 6th, 7th, 8th and 9th grade FFA members the opportunity to present the five legendary paragraphs of the FFA Creed. Students are evaluated based on presentation and accuracy.

State Event Superintendent

The superintendent for this event is designated by the State Agriculture Education Leader and will be identified at the State FFA Convention.

Questions and comments can be directed to Mr. Jason Chester, Central Region Coordinator, 444 Bristol Dr, Statesville, NC 28677. Phone: 704.213.1335, Email: jdcheste@ncsu.edu

Eligibility

This event is open only to active FFA members who are enrolled in Agricultural Education as a 6th, 7th, 8th, or 9th grader. No sophomores, juniors, or seniors are eligible to compete in this event at any level. FFA members winning a previous state event in this area are ineligible.

At the North Carolina FFA State Convention, participation in more than one FFA CDE event is permitted as long as events are not being held concurrently and no special provisions are required to facilitate participation with the exception that Parliamentary Procedure and Prepared Public Speaking and Parliamentary Procedure and Creed Speaking which are held concurrently will allow dual participation and special provisions for flighting. (An exception may be made at the Federation and/or Regional level if agreed upon in advance by the FFA advisors on those levels.).

Students may not enter either Prepared Public Speaking CDE or the Extemporaneous Public Speaking CDE and FFA Creed Speaking in the same year at the state level.

The use or possession of cellular phones or any other mobile electronic communication device is prohibited during any state-level career development event. Any violation of this rule by any team member will result in total team disqualification.

Any member found cheating in any state-level career development event will result in total team disqualification for that event.

The North Carolina FFA Association, in keeping with the FFA mission and purposes, does not permit the use of tobacco products, e-cigarettes, vapes, or Juuls at any FFA facility or at any FFA activity.



In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, North Carolina FFA will honor requests for reasonable accommodations made by individuals with disabilities. Please direct accommodation requests through the CDE/LDE Accommodation Request [Form](#). If the accommodation can be made for all and/or doesn't provide an unfair advantage, then every effort will be made to provide the accommodation. Requests can be accommodated more effectively if notice is provided at least 10 days before the event.

Middle School Participation

Middle school students and teams may participate in any Career Development Event or Leadership Development Event. The top three middle school participants will be recognized at the state FFA convention. Middle school participants should designate during registration.

Dress Code

Participants are required to follow the North Carolina FFA Career Development Event Dress Code. Official dress for an FFA member includes: an official FFA jacket zipped to the top, black slacks and black socks/nylons or black skirt and black nylons, white collared blouse or white collared shirt, official FFA tie or official FFA scarf, black dress shoes with closed heel and toe.

The North Carolina FFA Association strives to promote a positive image at all Official FFA Events. The dress code policy was established to address the issue of appropriate attire at all Official FFA Events. Members should adhere to this policy for all events. A ten percent reduction will be applied to all individual scores from a chapter if a participant from that chapter violates the dress code during that career event.

State Career Development Event Participation

The appropriate numbers of participants based on event involvement from each region are eligible to compete in the state career development event. Individuals advancing to state event participation must be certified by the regional FFA advisor.

Procedures for Administering the Event

Participants must recite from memory the latest version of the FFA Creed. Each participant may have an introductory statement of no more than thirty (30) seconds, which will not be considered in selecting a winner. Judging will be based on the following criteria.

The event superintendent will randomly determine the order of presentation prior to the event or may choose to allow participants to draw for order or presentation on the day of the event. At the state event, a random system for flighting of the teams will be used.

The event will include answering questions directly related to the creed. Each participant will be asked one question per judge per round, with a five (5) minute time limit for responses. The questions used will change as the participant progresses to semi and final rounds of competition. The questions will be developed annually by the Creed Speaking Career Development Event superintendent or their designee and will avoid two-part questions. Sample questions will not be available prior to the event.



Scoring

Criteria	Points Allowed
Oral Communication	200
Non-Verbal Communication	400
Questions and Answers	400

For more detail see the rubric on the NC FFA website.

Method of Selecting Winner

Three competent and impartial judges will be selected to judge career development events at all levels of competition. At least one of the judges should have an agricultural background. Judges will score participants on the North Carolina FFA Creed Speaking Score Card. Judges will score speakers on the North Carolina FFA Creed Speaking Scoring Rubric. Official placing for this event are based on ranks rather than scores. Each judge will independently score and rank the individual speakers based on the scores they gave him or her. The speaker with the highest score total receives a rank of 1. Other speakers are ranked in the same manner with each subsequent rank being for a lower score. After each judge has scored and ranked all speakers, judges will collaborate to determine overall rankings and placing for each speaker. Judges will sum their ranks and the speaker with the lowest cumulative total will be placed first, second lowest cumulative total will be second place, and so forth until all speakers have been placed

Procedure for Determining the State Event Winner When Participants are Tied

The judges will compare individual raw scores for all criteria and the high scorer will be the winner. If a tie score remains, judges will compare the scores on the question section and the participant with the highest score on the questions will be declared the winner with each subsequent score being ranked lower.

State Awards

The awards for the state event will be presented annually at the state FFA convention to include a team 1st, 2nd and 3rd place plaque and a travel monetary award for the 1st place recipient.

National Career Development Event Participation

State winning teams advancing to the national career development event will be automatically registered for the national event. It is the responsibility of the FFA Chapter Advisor to complete all necessary national certification and waiver forms and return them to the state FFA Coordinator by the assigned due date.

State winning CDE individuals/teams that choose not to participate at the national level should contact the state office by Sept. 1 prior to national convention. Individuals/Teams that fail to inform the state office prior to Sept. 1 will be ineligible to participate in that same CDE for the next year (chapters may appeal to the State FFA Board of Directors). Individuals/Teams that do not compete at the National Convention will be required to pay back the travel award.



Official Creed Script

The FFA Creed

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.

The Creed was written by E. M Tiffany and adopted at the 3rd National Convention of the FFA. Revised at the 38th and 63rd National FFA Convention



North Carolina FFA Association
FFA Creed Speaking Career Development Event
Official FFA Creed 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	Speaks very articulately without hesitation.	Speaks articulately but sometimes hesitates.	Speaks articulately but frequently hesitates.		X 20	
	Never has the need for unnecessary pauses or hesitation when speaking.	Occasionally has the need for a long pause or moderate hesitation when speaking.	Frequently hesitates or has long, awkward pauses while speaking.			
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.	Usually is well poised.	Isn't always well poised.		X 20	
	• Poised and in control at all times.	• Poised and in control most of the time; rarely loses composure.	• Sometimes seems to lose composure.			



Question and Answer—400 points						
	Is able to stay fully detail oriented.	Is mostly good at being detail oriented.	Has difficulty being detail oriented.			
A. Being detail oriented	• Always provides details that support answers/basis of the question.	• Usually provides details that 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 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*						
Dress Code Violation 10% penalty from total score**						
Net Total Points						
Rank						
<p>* - 2 points per word as determined by the accuracy judges **Official dress for an FFA member includes: an official FFA jacket zipped to the top, black slacks and black socks/nylons or black skirt and black nylons, white collared blouse or white collared shirt, official FFA tie or official FFA scarf, black dress shoes with closed heel and toe.</p>						

Judge's Name: _____ Date: _____