



Dear College Station High School FFA Parents:

Welcome to the 2013-2014 Cougar school year! The CSHS FFA Alumni/Parent Organization would like to personally welcome you to the CSHS FFA Chapter. Our chapter is off to a great start and we are excited to see all of the new *Greenhands* and their parents! (Note: *Greenhands* are newbies to our chapter or incoming freshmen). Our FFA officers met over the summer and have several activities planned throughout the year to involve our members. This will help to promote our chapter and begin working together as team. There will be times that we will need support from the parents and hope you will join us and become involved with the CSHS FFA Alumni-Parent Organization.

What is the FFA Alumni you ask?

The CSHS FFA Alumni-Parent Organization is made up of the parents who support not only their own FFA member but assist with organizing and participating during functions to benefit the chapter. The CSHS Alumni Organization was established in the Spring of 2013 and is recognized through the National FFA Alumni Chapter. We currently meet on the **second Tuesday of every month** in the ag room at the high school starting at **7:00pm**, which is the same time the chapter will be meeting. After the Fall semester, please refer to the CSHS FFA Website for changes in our meeting schedule starting in the Spring.

What are the benefits?

With your involvement with the chapter through the FFA Alumni, this is a great way to stay involved with your FFA Member and become a part of our FFA Family. Many aspects of our program are not possible without parent support and involvement.

Please know that we do understand that many of you have other children in additional extracurricular activities and we do not expect everyone to assist during every event; but if you do have the time we would love for you to participate and join in the fun! Please look over the following information to start becoming familiar with who we are, how you can get involved and look at the exciting events we have scheduled for the upcoming months!

College Station FFA Alumni Officers 2013-2014

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College Station FFA Officers 2013-2014



What is FFA, and why are we here?

In order for a chapter to be successful they must focus on their mission and as the Alumni Chapter we help them to achieve this goal!

FFA Mission:

FFA makes a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for **premier leadership, personal growth and career success** through agricultural education.

FFA Purpose:

To Practice Brotherhood, honor agricultural opportunities and responsibilities and develop those qualities of leadership which an FFA member should possess.

We believe that becoming an FFA member will be a life-changing experience and will provide friendships and memories to last a lifetime.



Why are there Fundraisers?

Chapters may rely on the alumni to garner support for the chapter from the local community. Fundraisers are essential in raising money to help fund activities to support our chapter while helping with personal growth through participation in leadership development camps or covering additional cost such as registration fees and travel expenses related to regional/state conventions. Fundraisers also contribute to our scholarship fund, animal project equipment, community service projects and year end activities such as recognizing our FFA members during the annual banquet.

In order to have a successful fundraiser; it takes every member to support our fundraising efforts so we can continue to offer activities to the students. As a chapter, they are only allowed two fundraisers a year typically there is one in the fall and one in the spring; however, the Alumni Chapter is not limited on the number of fundraisers.

How can I become involved?

In order to participate with organizing, planning or distributing please complete the sign up sheet to include your contact information. Our goal is to effectively communicate with our parents on a regular basis. We will continue to keep you posted on all information pertaining to our fundraisers.

Current Fundraisers

One of our bigger fundraisers for the fall semester is our Meat and Fruit Sales which is a fundraiser that the chapter will be responsible for.

Fall: The Alumni are planning to hold a raffle on December 14, 2013. We would like to begin collecting raffle items in order to have the tickets printed and ready to sell by November. We have created donation letters and will discuss the process with the Alumni group once all the details have been finalized. From there feel free to start collecting items for the raffle!

Spring: We are just in the beginning stages but we would like to schedule a fishing tournament in the spring of 2014 tentatively at Gibbons Creek. If you have ideas or suggestions, we welcome your input.

This year our officer team have set goals to sell a set amount of fundraising items and in order to help motivate our members we would like to see if each parent can bring in 1-2 items to include in the raffle. Please note this is not a requirement, but what better way to get involved and have a little competition with your student 😊

Community Service

CSSH FFA has a variety of community service projects planned throughout the school year. We will keep the parents posted and provide advance notice as much as we can to allow time for you to plan your schedules accordingly. The officers are working to finalize the details, be sure to talk to your Greenhands too in order to receive additional information. This is a great opportunity for them to earn hours towards their Greenhand degrees and be recognized for their efforts.

Chapter Degrees and Recognition

Did you know that FFA members have the opportunity to be recognized for their efforts each year with the CSHS FFA chapter? FFA degrees are a reward system depending on how much or how little FFA members wish to participate. There are different levels of FFA degrees to include a Greenhand Degree which is presented at the chapter level followed by the Chapter Degree presented to the chapter's top members. Each time the requirements for a degree have been met, they are eligible to apply for additional FFA degrees. Each degree is more advanced and challenging than the last one, but the honor of receiving these awards are priceless and worth the effort!

The first year degree to work towards is the Greenhand Degree, they are then eligible for the Chapter Degree the following year. Once the Greenhand Degree and Chapter Degrees have been received, they also have opportunities to earn the State and American Degrees. The advisors will be able to explain in further detail but this is a quick overview of what's in store for FFA members who have made a commitment to the chapter and worked hard to meet the criteria towards these degrees.

This is a great way for them to earn scholarships as well, while it's not a guarantee for a scholarship there are several National FFA sponsors that look for dedicated FFA members to present scholarships to.

For additional information regarding degrees or available scholarships through the National FFA please feel free to meet with one of our advisors or visit

www.FFA.org/programs/degrees or

<https://www.ffa.org/programs/grantsandscholarships/Pages/default.aspx>

Please refer to the CSHS Chapter Handbook for additional information

Additional Information

College Station FFA provides numerous opportunities for involvement. A member is encouraged to take part in as many activities as possible in order to gain a total FFA experience...There is something for everyone in the FFA!

Alumni Membership Dues \$25.00

The dues for 2013-2014 will be \$25.00 and cover you and your FFA member for the school year. The dues pay for each student to be a FFA member at the chapter, district, area, state, and national level. Please make checks out to CSHS FFA Alumni and submit your payment on or before **October 1, 2013**

Calendar of Events

This is just a snapshot of the activities coming up for September. For future dates and activities be sure to attend monthly meetings and check the CSHS FFA Website for additional information. As always please feel free to contact any of our Alumni officers listed in the packet!

- September 10th Chapter FFA Meeting 6:30 pm
- September 13th FFA Chapter Football Tailgate Event (members & parents)
- September 16th District 1 FFA Meeting in Iola
- September 23rd District 1 Greenhand Camp at Messiah's Ranch

***Thank you for your interest in joining the CSHS Alumni Chapter!
We are looking forward to a GREAT year with the College Station
FFA Chapter and with your help we WILL be successful!***

