

People Watching



9th Grade FFA Opportunities

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People Watching

Have you ever “people watched”? It’s kind of fun sometimes just to sit at a mall or an amusement park and simply watch people. Have you ever gone to a public high school and watched students as they walk down the halls? I’ll bet if you did, you could tell within 5 minutes which kids belong to which groups. It’s pretty easy to spot the jocks, cheerleaders, band members, brains, and the computer whizzes. You can also identify kids as to what they’re wearing. The cowboys, the goths, and the preps all usually have distinctive clothing. But, I’ll bet if you looked really closely, you could spot a few more groups. You could see the kids who are usually in trouble and falling through the cracks and don’t feel like they belong.

I once knew this kid who got off to a really bad start in high school. He was friends to most throughout his younger grades and then they entered high school. All his childhood friends started going their separate ways and this kid started getting lost. He was headed for big time trouble especially when he got suspended for 14 days for spouting off about burning the principal’s house down. His future didn’t look too promising, but something happened his sophomore year that turned this kid around. A new agricultural education teacher was introduced to the staff at Fairview High School. She didn’t know anything about his past, nor did she care to. She just knew that the FFA could make a difference.

The FFA is a great organization for kids to belong to. It gives endless opportunities for all kinds of kids, coming from different walks of life. It doesn’t matter whether you’re a jock, a cheerleader, or a brain, the FFA has something in it for everyone.

Originally starting out as the Future Farmers of America, it is now simply known as the National FFA Organization. Currently over 523,309 students are enrolled in ag ed classes and belong to the FFA today. Our organization was first started to teach young men farming skills

Oklahoma students. Being involved in this association will help instill in me a strong personal tie to Oklahoma agriculture and I will continue to believe in this wonderful youth organization.

I cannot say enough positive things about the FFA or how it can change lives. However, do you remember that boy I mentioned earlier, the one who was headed for trouble? Well, that boy happens to be my big brother and Mrs. Clark and the FFA were his saving grace. When Mrs. Clark first gave him the key to the greenhouse many thought she was crazy, but she knew that he had the potential to be a good kid. Last year at the National FFA Convention, my big brother was recognized as a National Proficiency Finalist in Diversified Horticulture. He is a three-time state winner and was a National Proficiency Finalist in Specialty Crop Production at this year's National Convention, where he also received his American FFA Degree. His love for horticulture has rewarded him in creating a career path as he is now majoring in Horticulture at Northwestern Oklahoma State University in Alva. And he knows that no matter where he goes or what he chooses to do in life, the FFA can and will make a difference for someone. So the next time you feel like people watching, see if you can spot that kid that the FFA could change the world for.

Thank you.

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