



Guidelines

In this document we provide you with some general information about the Pen Pal Program and some expectations that participants should follow along with some questions that you can start off with.

General Information: During the Pen Pal Program you will be exchanging letters/postcards or emails with another member of NYSFFA. You can either email back and forth or email each other your address if you want to send letters or postcards. Your partners' email is included in the email that this document was attached to. You are required to send out at least one letter or email each month and a District President will be assigned to you to check in and make sure everything with you and your partner is going well.

Since this is an FFA activity be sure that your letters are FFA appropriate. Below is the FFA Code of Ethics and some additional rules that apply to this program and should be followed when corresponding with your pen pal. We want you to get to know each other but to keep it appropriate.

FFA Code of Ethics

FFA members always conduct themselves to be a credit to their organization, chapter, school, community, and family. As an FFA member, I pledge to:

1. Develop my potential for premier leadership, personal growth, and career success.
2. Make a positive difference in the lives of others.
3. Respect the rights of others and their property.
4. Be courteous, honest, and fair with others.
5. Communicate in an appropriate, purposeful, and positive manner.
6. Demonstrate good sportsmanship by being modest in winning and generous in defeat.
7. Make myself aware of FFA programs and activities and be an active participant.
8. Strive to establish and enhance my skills through agricultural education in order to enter a successful career.
9. Appreciate and promote diversity in our organization. (We suggest that if you do decide to discuss current events and social issues to keep an open mind so that you can learn about other's experiences and perspectives. Respect diversity of opinion of race, gender, political and religious affiliations)
10. All communications should always refrain from including explicit or inappropriate language or content.

Ideas for you and pen pal: If you ever find yourself stuck with things to talk about you can always refer back to this list to get some ideas about what to talk about.

1. What is your favorite color?
2. What is your favorite animal?
3. How old are you?
4. Where are you from?
5. What are some of your hobbies?
6. What is your favorite FFA event?
7. What sports do you play?
8. How many brothers or sisters do you have?
9. My favorite thing about school is?
10. What is something you would like the other person to know about you?
11. When I hang out with my friends, I really love to?
12. If I could go any place in the world, I would go to?
13. Share what you have been doing in class!

We encourage you to come up with some of your own questions but if you ever have trouble feel free to refer back to these sample questions.

We have also developed some example letters to get you started that can be found on our website: <https://www.nysffa.org/pen-pal-program>.

To really get the most out of this experience here are some additional ideas that you could do with your pen pal:

- Send each other a small item that represents something meaningful to you
- Instead of sending a letter, send a postcard that has a picture of your favorite place or hometown on it
- Send a picture of yourself doing something you enjoy
- Teach each other a new skill (maybe by video?)

Ways We Will Be Encouraging Your Success

1. A District President will reach out to you and your pen pal occasionally to see how things are going.
2. The first fifty participants will receive a small gift from NY FFA. These will be mailed to your chapter.

Thank you for your participation in the Pen Pal Program! We greatly appreciate your devotion to FFA during this tough time.