

# OHIO FFA NEWS



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## Waterford FFA Chapter celebrates Parliamentary Procedure CDE win

Ohio FFA members understand the value of hard work and dedication. This past December, members of the Waterford FFA Chapter were able to see their work unexpectedly awarded with a crisp first place banner.

The state Parliamentary Procedure CDE was held on Dec. 14, 2018 at Columbus State Community College. The Waterford FFA Chapter, located in Washington County, took six team members and one alternate to compete in the Parliamentary Procedure CDE. Those students were Katelyn Huck, Courtney Miller, Stefani Saunders, Ethan Hinton, Leeann Trippett, Anna Jones and Clay Hansel.

The team spent several months diligently practicing for the CDE. They met weekly before school started to share breakfast and learn about Roberts Rules of Order, constructive debates and how to properly run a meeting. And much to their surprise, their hard work won them a first place banner at the state CDE.

"We weren't expecting it," said Leeann Trippett, a senior member who has been involved with the parliamentary procedure team for three years. "When we won we were sort of in disbelief. Like, did we just hear the same thing?" Trippett said the team was surprised to have made it to the final round and didn't expect to walk away as the state champions.

Trippett loves to debate and be challenged to think outside the box — something she had to do during the CDE. She said she can now comfortably "speak and come up with something that's intelligent and truthful on the spot."

Trippett added that she's thankful for the skill set she gained from her years of using parliamentary procedure because they've helped prepare her for interviews and how to work effectively with others.

"We've had to learn how to be accountable for ourselves while still working as a team," Trippett said.

As a senior, Trippett has learned events like the Parliamentary Procedure CDE help FFA members build character and become positive contributing members of society.

Competing in the Parliamentary Procedure CDE is a tradition for the Waterford FFA Chapter. Every year, they send their chapter officer team to compete. This is the third year in the chapter's history that they've brought home a state-winning banner.

Katelyn Huck, a junior member of the team, agreed with her teammate. Hearing Waterford announced as the winner was a welcomed surprise.

"It felt like we were on top of the world at that moment," she said.

This was the first year Huck was involved with the CDE. She entered the first practice not knowing anything about parliamentary procedure but was excited to learn, especially since the CDE is a bit of a family tradition.

"I wanted to follow in my older brother's footsteps," Huck said.

She added that watching her teammates also grow in their knowledge and skill set was an exciting part of being on the team.

"We all wanted to work harder and put in the work," said Huck,



*Pictured above: The Waterford FFA Chapter with their state winning banner. Team members included: Katelyn Huck, Courtney Miller, Stefani Saunders, Ethan Hinton, Leeann Trippett, Anna Jones and Clay Hansel. Chapter advisor, Matt Hartline, is pictured with the team. Picture provided by Katelyn Huck.*

who is thankful they did in order to bring home a state champion banner.

The Waterford FFA Chapter has over 40 members and is advised by Matt Hartline. Senior member, Stefani Saunders, said he was a huge part of why the team was successful.

"Our coach and advisor pushed and inspired us to be the best that we could be," Saunders said. She's thankful for that push, because it paid off in the end.

"The early mornings and what felt like millions of tests we had to take everyday, all of it. It got us there. We were prepared to win and that's what we did. I was so proud of my friends, teammates and our coach," Saunders said.

Saunders has been involved with parliamentary procedure for four years and loves the competitive aspect of the CDE.

"I really liked running the meetings during practice and at competitions. It sparked adrenaline when performing

them," she said. "Like a sport, that rush of adrenaline during and exhaustion at the end of the meeting proved to me that I was putting my all into these meetings."

Like her teammates, Saunders was glowing with excitement as the team brought home a state winning title. And they weren't the only ones. After their big win, the team was recognized in front of their school during a morning announcement. Their county commissioners were also present to congratulate the chapter on a job well done.

The Ohio FFA Association would like to congratulate all members and chapters who have participated in a career development event this year. State winning teams and individuals will be recognized during the 91st Ohio FFA State Convention held May 2 and 3 at the Ohio Expo Center.

For more information on CDE results or state convention, please visit [ohioffa.org](http://ohioffa.org).