

HOW TO BECOME A STATE OFFICER

Only one individual per chapter may run for state office a year. You will need approval from Mrs. Spradley as well as signatures from several other school faculty before applying for state office. If interested talk to her about it as soon as possible so you can start on the application as soon as it opens.

You should attend the state officer meeting held by Monty Rhodes at FLC. Applications should be available then and are due to Monty in December. This means it must be mailed at least a week prior and started long before then.

The application process will take several weeks, require several letters of recommendation, the creation of flyers, a platform, and several essays. In addition to the previous tasks, it is highly recommended you complete the Capstone level of your BAAs now (you must complete the Contributor, Leader, and Advocate levels to run, but if elected you must complete Capstone by September of your term anyway). This is also worth 50 Additional points.

If your application is approved, you will be invited to the State Officer Candidate Qualifying (SOCQ). This is typically held in February. You be given a presentation topic and must prepare a 1 minute speech ahead of time. You will also have another presentation that must be prepared on site and an impromptu speech. You will have 4 interviews – 2 with alumni panels, 1 with Monty, and 1 with some of the State Officers. There will be a test on General FBLA Knowledge; a FBLA creed, pledge, mission statement, and goals memorization test; and a bonus parliamentary procedures test. This will require getting very little sleep Friday night (six hours maximum).

If you make it past SOCQ you will become an official candidate. Your SOCQ Score will be combined with the number of votes you receive from the voting delegates at SLC (approx. 50/50 weighting). You will then come up with a campaign slogan, poster, fix your flyer and platform, and campaign for a few hours (\$100 budget). You will also give a 2-minute speech to the voting delegates at SLC. You may not mention to anyone you are running, or risk being disqualified.

While this may sound daunting, it is the best experience you will ever be given. That being said, this will require a huge time commitment, even after being elected. Expect grades to drop by a few points and free time to be extremely limited. You will miss a lot of school, meaning you may have to do homework/studying after the long days you spend on trips. You will get very little sleep – early mornings and late nights – with few breaks. This time commitment means you may have to drop some activities.

You will spend about half of your summer with FBLA attending CTSO Training, NLC, and SLOTS/ROA. You will also have training at SLC the day after being elected and you will produce a plan for the year at April Training. You will use these summer trips to understand your role as a state officer and get to know your team. You will have less things during the school year (GBEA/FALCON in September, two Fall Rally's, FLC in November, RLC's in January, SLC in March, SOCQ again in January, etc.). Overall being a state officer requires an immense amount of dedication and work, but it is still well worth it.