

# State FFA Officer Web Page

FEATURE ARTICLE

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## ***Reconnecting With Your Mentor...by Brian Harvey, 2004-2005 National FFA Vice-President***

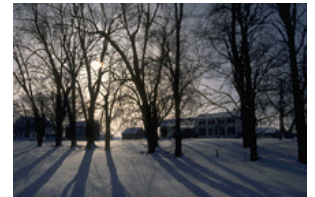
With winter vacation is behind us, we are all getting back to the duties of our elected offices. Now is a great time to evaluate yourself and create new goals to reach during the last part of your exciting and impactful year. One thing I noticed during my personal evaluation was that I was not making my mentor an effective resource for my growth as a person and a successful state officer.

The last part of your year is a time when your mentor can truly make a difference. Chapter banquets, speeches, and state conventions are quickly approaching. These are all activities in which your mentor can greatly assist you. Whether it's being a soundboard for speech ideas, a person who can critique you, or just someone who can listen as the stresses and emotions grow stronger as the end of your year approaches, your mentor can make a big difference.

Some states have a system in place to pair state officers with mentors; other states rely more on the officers to find that person. Some of you might not even have a formal mentor at this point; it's not too late to find one. A good mentor is one person who understands your role as a state officer. That might be a past state or national officer, a current or retired agriculture educator, or maybe it's one of your favorite educators at your high school or college. Give that person who you choose as your mentor a call and ask to meet them for lunch if possible. Come prepared to that informal meeting with the things that you really want to work on as you conclude your year of service.

Maybe you want your mentor to:

- Critique you on your speech content and presentation
- Hold you accountable on maintaining communication with members and advisors
- Advise you on the stresses and emotions you have about ending your year
- Being a person who can advise you about team conflicts
- Help you as you prepare to re-enter mainstream high school or college life



I know that I felt I was bothering my mentor by confiding in her or asking her questions. It wasn't until my year was over that I found out she loved helping me, and she looked forward to every time I called. Most mentors, if not all, are like that. They believe and care about you and your success not only as a state officer, but as a person as well. They want to help. Help them help you, get in contact with your mentor, and finish your state officer year stronger, smarter, and overall a better person than when you started this great journey.