



Living to Serve: A Look at Community Service in FFA

The FFA motto gives members 12 short words to live by as they experience the organization's opportunities. Three of these words sum up the desire to help provide for one's community:

Living to Serve.

Volunteerism in FFA

In a 2021 survey of 10th and 11th graders in FFA, 74% of respondents who identified as FFA members said they **volunteered*** in their schools or communities. A 2024 study of FFA members found that besides athletics, the activity that FFA members participate in the most is **volunteering.****

Research shows that participation in structured activities and civic engagement, such as volunteering, leads to **greater school engagement**, which can inspire positive outcomes such as better grades, lower levels of depression, higher self-esteem, and decreased likeliness to be involved in risky behaviors. Structured activities and civic participation allow for **positive interactions** between youth and their peers and trusted adults, another beneficial outcome.***



Spotlighting Service in National FFA Programming

National FFA encourages students to immerse themselves in service activities through **structured programming** at the national and local levels.

National FFA Week (Spring 2024)

Members were challenged to serve their communities during [National FFA Week](#).

- 43% of surveyed advisors (N=386) said that their FFA chapters engaged in service projects during National FFA Week in 2024.
- According to reports from seven participating FFA chapters in California, Oregon, North Dakota, Georgia, New York and Oklahoma, volunteers engaged in activities from organizing food drives to church cleanups to installing nesting tubes for duck habitats.

*National FFA Organization. (2021). 2021 National FFA Student Survey Report.

**National FFA Organization. (2024). FFA Member and Agriculture Student Study Report.

***Bang, H., Won, D., & Park, S. (2020). School engagement, self-esteem, and depression of adolescents: The role of sport participation and volunteering activity and gender differences. *Children and Youth Services Review*, 113, 105012. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.childyouth.2020.105012>; Li, Y., Bebiroglu, N., Phelps, E., Lerner, R. M., & Lerner, J. V. (2008). Out-of-school time activity participation, school engagement and positive youth development: Findings from the 4-H study of positive youth development. *Journal of Youth Development*, 3(3). <https://doi.org/10.5195/jyd.2008.284>



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Washington Leadership Conference (Summer 2024)

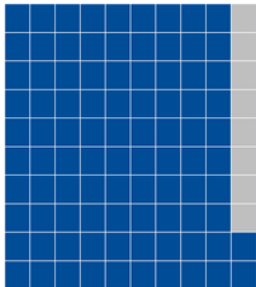
The [Washington Leadership Conference](#) (WLC) is a five-week conference that motivates FFA members to become community change-makers.

- Attendees at WLC participated in an on-site service project benefiting Meals of Hope. Throughout the conference, they packaged **356,904 meals**.
- **1,201 FFA** members reported developing a Living to Serve plan (developed by WLC attendees that addresses a need in their home communities).

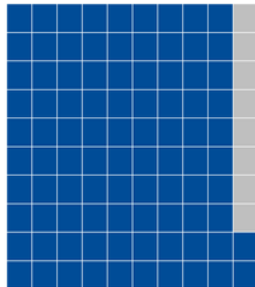
National FFA Convention & Expo (Fall 2024)

Various events held during convention week encourage service among attendees, including [National Days of Service](#) (NDoS), where participants volunteer at various host sites around Indianapolis and in the Indiana Convention Center. According to a survey of FFA members who participated in NDoS:

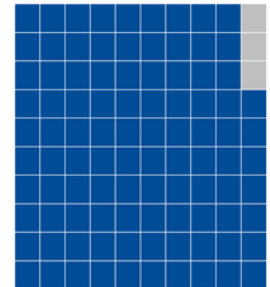
92% found the volunteer experience **personally fulfilling**.



92% said they were **actively engaged** while participating.



97% felt they had a **positive impact** on the community or cause the site supports.



National Days of Service

2,333 FFA members completed a reported **9,332** service hours.

On-Site Service Project

2,111 FFA members completed **2,111** service hours, donating **2,007** woven potholders to Meals on Wheels of Central Indiana.

Evening Service Project

160 FFA members completed **160** volunteer hours, donating **202** celebration boxes to St. Vincent de Paul.



Living to Serve Grants

When barriers exist, FFA members can still live to serve with the help of [semester- or yearlong grants and mini-grants](#):

426	Grants awarded (90 more than last year)
\$489,575	Total amount of grant funding provided to all awardees (\$63,160 more than last year)
30,197	Youth volunteers, including FFA members and non-FFA youth (4,798 more than last year)
225,964	Youth service hours
806	Community partners (325 more than last year)
\$7,573,439	Economic impact (calculated using the Independent Sector's value of a volunteer hour (\$33.49)).



Walking the Talk: Service Among National FFA Staff

From Jan. 1, 2023, to the present, National FFA staff:

- Participated in the Gr8 Pasta Push in 2023 and 2024, benefiting Second Helpings in Indianapolis, donating 139 pounds of pasta to be used in meals delivered all over the city.
- Hosted four blood drives in 2023 and 2024 to address critical blood shortages in Indiana.
- Donated clothing, professional clothing, purses and hygiene items to local Indianapolis charities.
- Volunteered in the Indiana FFA Pavilion annually at the Indiana State Fair.



220

staff volunteer hours
completed.



**30% of staff used their
eight volunteer hours.**