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Local FFA Members Selected to Compete Nationally

DATELINE (November 2nd, 2019/National FFA Organization) – A local FFA chapter was recently selected to compete for national recognition in a career development event at the 92nd National FFA Convention & Expo in Indianapolis, Oct. 30-Nov. 2.

The North Harford FFA Chapter from Pylesville, MD sent members to Indianapolis to vie for national honors in the area of nursery/landscape competing against over 160 other FFA members from around the country. Kubota Tractor Corporation and STIHL Inc., sponsor the event. The team placed 23rd in the nation earning a silver award. FFA members who represented the chapter include, Kaylin Bordenski (bronze award), Nicole DeAtley (silver award), Megan Thomas (gold award), and Shanyn Wolfe (silver award). Erika Edwards is the chapter advisor and coach, with help from coach Joyce Browning (UMD Extension).

Nursery/Landscape is one of 25 career/leadership development event areas (CDE/LDE's), covering jobs skills in everything from communications to mechanics. The nursery and landscape event tests participants by having them identify plant specimens according to their technical and common names, select nursery plant material and take a multiple-choice exam. The FFA members also perform hands-on activities that range from landscape estimating to interpersonal relations to nursery operation practices. CDEs and LDEs help students develop the abilities to think critically, communicate clearly and perform effectively in a competitive job market. The North Harford FFA annually competes in many other CDE's and LDE's state-wide. This is the fourth consecutive year representing the state of Maryland in the nursery/landscape CDE.

Team member, Shanyn Wolfe states, "The Nursery/Landscape CDE opened my eyes to a whole new side of agriculture. I had always focused more on animals and thought plants were boring if I'm being honest, but after competing in this CDE I found that I actually really enjoy it. I now take plant classes at school and have passed the identification portion of the Certified Professional Horticulturist Exam and I'm on my way to passing the entire exam in the spring." This CDE also helped team member Megan Thomas become a Maryland Certified Professional Horticulturalist. Megan says, "While at the National FFA Convention, I learned more about nursery and landscape management, but also more about FFA members and agriculture from around the country". Megan made history for her chapter being the first to earn a gold recognition in this event.

Jasmine Coates is alum of North Harford and will also be receiving honors as she accepts the American FFA Degree. The American Degree is the highest degree you can achieve in the National FFA Organization. Not only does it take hard work, but it also takes time. Members work their way up from the bronze charm of the Greenhand Degree, to the silver Chapter Degree, to the golden State Degree, and those who go above and beyond strive for the golden key of the American Degree. This award is equivalent to the Eagle Scout. Jasmynes states, "To reach the requirements and earn my American Degree I put in over 5 years' worth of work in the FFA, serving as both a chapter and state officer. During that time, I completed multiple Supervised Agricultural Experiences's (SAEs) which produced my own income, participated in over 50 hours of community service projects, and was enrolled in the Natural Resources and Agricultural Sciences Magnet Program at North Harford."

The National FFA Organization provides leadership, personal growth and career success training through agricultural education to 669,989 student members who belong to one of 8,630 local FFA chapters throughout the U.S., Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The organization is also supported by 459,514 alumni members in 2,236 alumni chapters throughout the U.S.

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About National FFA Organization

The National FFA Organization is a national youth organization of 669,989 student members as part of 8,630 local FFA chapters in all 50 states, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The organization is supported by 459,514 alumni members in 2,236 local FFA Alumni chapters throughout the U.S. The FFA mission is to make a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education. For more, visit the National FFA Organization online at FFA.org and on Facebook, Twitter and [official news page](#) of the National FFA Organization.

About National FFA Foundation

The National FFA Foundation builds partnerships with industry, education, government, other foundations and individuals to secure financial resources that recognize FFA member achievements, develop student leaders and support the future of agricultural education. Governed by a 19-member board of trustees composed of educators, business leaders, individual donors and FFA Alumni, the foundation is a separately registered nonprofit organization. About 82 percent of every dollar received by the foundation supports FFA members and agricultural education opportunities. For more, visit FFA.org/Give.