

My State Officer Reflections

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It is amazing how quickly things can change. It seems like one day you are going to your first ever Area Leadership Camp, and the next day you are travelling the state in a Texas FFA Truck. To say that I have been a blessed individual would be an understatement, and this last year has not been an exception. In total, this last year I have travelled 32,000 miles all over the state, and gone to over 300 schools. But there was one school that really comes forward to my mind as I reflect over this last year. James Madison in San Antonio Texas. This chapter has a catfish pond outside that once a year, they fish, drain, and use the silt on the bottom as a fertilizer for their school's grass. Then when you walked inside, they had bass swimming in aquariums. They are currently in the process of trying to show Texas Parks and Wildlife that they can maintain a bass population so that they can start raising the endangered Guadalupe Spotted Bass. They had a fully operational vet clinic, and even a greenroof (greenhouse on their roof). And just to top all of this off, this chapter is in the middle San Antonio. Concrete as far as the eye can see, and yet these members get the same opportunities as anyone of us from more rural backgrounds. The reason that I bring this up as a way to show that our organization is not limited by where you grow up, or what the world around you says your suppose to do. You are capable of anything that you set before you.

Area I thank you so much for giving me the opportunity to serve as your state officer. You are what has driven me when things have gotten tough, and you will never understand just how much each and every one of you mean to me. But as my year of Serving as the State President is coming to an end, there are 3 big things that I have taken away from the road.

- 1.) Always remember where you came from. The people that are back home have helped shape you into who you are, and it is only right that you thank them for everything they've done to help you.
- 2.) Stay between the lines. While driving across the state, it would surprise you how difficult that is at times. While the flowers on the side of the road may be beautiful, if you stay there picking them, you'll never get to the destination you originally set before you. Don't be afraid of the winds in the road. Because sometimes they are necessary to see the full view of the landscape before you.
- 3.) Watch the sunsets. As busy as you may be at times, find the beauty in everything, and take time to be thankful for all that you have.

Area I you are who inspired me to do everything that I've done. You are all so amazing, and would like to thank you one more time for giving me this opportunity!

Respectfully submitted,
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