



COLLEGE & CAREER  
**AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND NATURAL RESOURCES**  
**Student Organizations**



**Illinois FFA Association ([www.ilaged.org/Participate](http://www.ilaged.org/Participate))**

FFA is a dynamic youth organization that changes lives and prepares members for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education. FFA develops members' potential and helps them discover their talent through hands-on experiences, which give members the tools to achieve real-world success. Members are future chemists, veterinarians, government officials, entrepreneurs, bankers, international business leaders, teachers and premier professionals in many career fields.

FFA is an intracurricular student organization for those interested in agriculture and leadership. It is one of the three components of agricultural education. The official name of the organization is the National FFA Organization. The letters "FFA" stand for Future Farmers of America. These letters are a part of our history and our heritage that will never change. Illinois FFA Association is a recognized Career and Technical Student Organization (CTSO) by the state of Illinois.



**Illinois 4-H (<https://4h.extension.illinois.edu/>)**

Illinois 4-H prepares youth to solve Illinois' problems by producing the leaders, innovators, entrepreneurs, stewards, and builders we need. 4-H builds good leaders by giving them safe environments to practice all the skills needed to be successful leaders. Illinois 4-H knows that our very lives are inseparable from the health of our planet and work daily to save the world for this and future generations.

4-H is helping youth understand where their food comes from, inspiring them to pursue interests in agriculture, and creating opportunities for them to lead change as they advocate for more food-secure communities. Illinois 4-H is increasing its efforts to prepare youth with skills needed in the workforce, inspiring a new generation of entrepreneurs and channeling youth to college experiences and mentors who can guide them towards a productive path.



**Jr. MANRRS (<https://www.manrrs.org/>)**

The National Society for Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources and Related Sciences (MANRRS) Pre-College Initiative Program will lead the world in enhancing the pre-college students' Academic, Professional, and Leadership skills in order to maximize their success in life. The Jr. MANRRS Program is designed to stimulate the interest in science, technology, engineering, agricultural, and mathematics fields, or STEAM. The goal is to encourage students in grades 7–12 to attend college and pursue agriculture, natural resources, and environmental sciences degrees.

Our Jr. MANRRS program provides activities to help students discover firsthand how agriculture, engineering, and technology relate to the world around them and discover the excitement of academic excellence, leadership, technical development, and teamwork. One of our signature programs is the Jr. MANRRS Regional Cluster Meeting, a low-cost, three-day professional development event for students in grades 7-12. MANRRS is partnering with programs and organizations such as FFA, 4-H, and Agricultural Future of America (AFA) to promote the importance of agriculture and its relative impact on our daily lives while providing opportunities to interact and network with other professional organizations.