



Program Guidelines

Revised January 2021



Blue Jacket Bonanza Guidelines:

Fall:

1. Applications must be USPS postmarked no later than **November 1**
2. Send applications to
 - a. SBCFB, PO Box 1846, Buellton CA 93427
3. Applications open to Freshmen, Sophomores and Juniors only
4. Jackets will be awarded to deserving students

Judges Packets:

1. Copy of BJB Rubric
2. Copy of application for each student being interviewed
3. Scorecard for each student being interviewed
4. List of sample questions

Jacket Recipient Selection:

1. Upon completion of interviews, the student will receive a score. Minimum score of 360 out of 500 required to receive jacket.
2. Top individuals in each application period will be awarded jackets.
3. Students and advisors will be notified via letter.
4. Jackets and certificates will be distributed at a time and location to be determined by each schools FFA advisors and the program director.
5. Students who do not receive a jacket may reapply during the next application period.
6. Students may only apply twice.

Applications:

Applications are available in a PDF digital form via email and on the Santa Barbara County Farm Bureau website at www.sbcfb.com. Click on "Programs" then click on the Blue Jacket Bonanza logo. If you cannot access the application on the website, contact the Santa Barbara County Farm Bureau Office at 805-688-7479 or farmsbc@hwy246.net. Applications are also emailed to the local

FFA advisors each application period. Applications are accepted in Fall. See below for application requirements.

Application Requirements:

1. All applications must be type written.
2. Applications must be USPS postmarked by **November 1**
3. Application must be complete. Every field is required!
4. Per National FFA Organization restrictions, name on jacket can be no more than 20 characters. Students with hyphenated names more than 20 characters should specify the last name they would prefer to use.
5. Jacket size needs to be in number value, for example 36, 38, etc.
6. Incomplete essay question responses are not acceptable.
7. All 3 signatures of recommendation must be present.
8. Community service hours must be completed by the application deadline.
9. Community service projects must serve the greater good of the community. For example: volunteering at a school event, hospital, community center, senior center, homeless shelter, church event, etc. Examples of unacceptable community service are babysitting, cleaning house, caring for siblings, etc.
10. Letter of recommendation from someone twenty-one (21) years old or older, other than parent, family member, FFA advisor or principal must be type written and attached when application is submitted.
11. Letters of recommendation should also include the name and title of the person writing the letter.
12. Applications are scored on grammar and spelling, as well as content.
13. Applicant signature must be present.

ATTENTION:

1. Failure to submit a complete application will result in disqualification.
2. Late postmarks will not be accepted under any circumstances.
3. Not every student who submits an application will get an interview.

4. Applications should demonstrate a passion for the FFA, a need for the jacket and examples of how the students have earned the privilege to receive a jacket from this program.
5. All answers need to be carefully thought out, well-written, thorough and pertinent. Include specifics where applicable – details can make a difference.

**See attached Application and application review form for required information

Interviews:

All completed applications that meet the requirements listed above will undergo an interview selection process. The Interview selection committee is comprised of the Santa Barbara County Farm Bureau Executive Director, Blue Jacket Bonanza Program Director and (1) board member from either the Santa Barbara County Farm Bureau Board of Directors or the GAATE Foundation Board of Directors. Applications will be reviewed for community service, FFA knowledge, educational and career goals and outstanding recommendations.

Interview Process:

1. Once the interview candidates have been selected, the student and the advisor will be notified of their interview date, time and location.
2. Interviews will be held at each respective high school. Locations are subject to change.
3. Students are expected to arrive for their interview in professional attire.
4. Interviews will be conducted by the Santa Barbara County Farm Bureau Executive Director, Blue Jacket Bonanza Program Director and (1) board member from either the Santa Barbara County Farm Bureau Board of Directors or the GAATE Foundation Board of Directors.
5. Not every student that gets interviewed will receive a jacket.

Ideal Candidates:

1. Neat appearance, professional attire and initiate introduction with firm handshake and eye contact.

2. Convey more than one reason for applying, clear higher education and career goals and excellent FFA knowledge
3. Good voice quality, clear enunciation and excellent communication skills.