



93rd Delaware FFA State Convention

March 7-8, 2023

Delaware State Fairgrounds, Harrington, Delaware

Dear FFA Advisors, Members, & Guests:

We are excited to be celebrating Delaware FFA's 93rd year of developing premier leadership, personal growth, and career success through agriscience education. Over the past year, FFA members have been developing and building in preparation and they will have the opportunity to demonstrate what they have learned in their classes at State Convention as they have "leveled up." I have also been working with a dedicated group of advisors, past state officers, and the 2022-2023 State Officer team who have lifted Delaware FFA above and beyond. So please read on to find out more about registration, the convention schedule, and expectations.

Sincerely,

Amanda L. H. Powell
State FFA Executive Secretary
Delaware FFA Association

Registration and Fees

We are utilizing the online registration system available at www.judgingcard.com. Registration should be completed by one advisor/school to avoid multiple invoices. **Registration is due by February 10th, 2023 by 11:59pm.** After that point, the online system will be closed and no registrations can be accepted.

Payment is due no later than February 17, 2023.

A late payment charge of 3% will be invoiced to schools that have not paid by February 24th.

The cost for members and advisors is \$100. You may include guests in registration at \$30/badge. For example, if your district CTE Director would like to attend the first day and your school's principal would like to attend the final session to see the awards, you only pay one (1) guest fee of \$30 and transfer that badge to the principal on the final day. Each guest must wear the badge while

in attendance, so if you will be having multiple guests at the same time, you must purchase the correct amount of badges.

Each school will be charged an annual **Career/Leadership Development Event (CDE/LDE) Fee of \$25** to help cover the costs of scantrons and other paperwork. This will be charged during State Convention registration through judging card. Even if your school does not participate in State Convention, but participates in CDEs/LDEs throughout the year, this fee will be incurred at this time.

Attendance

Attendance at the State FFA Convention is open to all active FFA members, advisors, sponsors, alumni members, and special guests. All FFA members must be a dues paid National FFA member to be considered active. All FFA members must be accompanied by an appointed school district representative. Registration is mandatory for all attending State Convention.

Advisors should consult the schedule posted online to help in planning. All CDE's and LDE's will be held on March 7th. Preliminary CDE/ LDE results will be posted following February 9th, advisors will then know who will need to attend on March 7th. Leadership workshops, awards ceremonies, and more will occur on March 8th for both middle school and high school.

Meal Planning

Lunch and dinner will be served on March 7th and on March 8th, a lunch will be provided following leadership workshops.

Hotel Arrangements

We have not booked a block of rooms for the chapters due to the uncertainty of the number of chapters staying overnight. With Harrington being more centralized, we have heard many chapters will travel back and forth. For some high schools, they are making a decision based on attending evening activities and the delegate session.

There are many hotels in Harrington with very good rates. The State Association, convention staff, and out-of-state guests will be staying at the Holiday Inn Express, 17271 S. DuPont Hwy, Harrington. The hotel is just north of the fairgrounds on the northbound side of the highway. If you choose to use the Holiday Inn Express (302.398.8800) each chapter is responsible for reserving the rooms they need.

Required Forms

Waiver Forms: The *Delaware FFA Waiver Form* will need to be signed (does not need to be notarized) and brought with each FFA Member participating in State Convention. If the student does not submit the current form(s), properly completed and signed, the student will not be permitted to participate. This can be completed as a hard copy or electronically.

National FFA is continuing the electronic certification of winning teams and will produce waivers through their system. Notification will be sent through email when those waivers are ready.

Convention Guidelines

Proper behavior and dress is imperative at the State Convention. Remember that this is a leadership activity, and we often have people in attendance that we call on for financial or other types of assistance. Student appearance and behavior can affect their willingness to assist us.

Please make sure that all students understand what behavior is expected of them and the purpose of the convention (leadership activity). School district policies will be utilized as the default if member misconduct is reported. Please be familiar with your districts misconduct policies. It is the advisor's responsibility to ensure that FFA members who attend the convention, attend each session, participate in their respective CDE/LDE, Day of Service, or other committee assignment, such as Nominating Committee or Courtesy Corps. The state officers are also asking that no students or chapters leave during a session. This is a distraction to the officers who have worked very hard on the program.

For the safety of all attending, all members attending convention must be actively engaged in a convention activity. All FFA members who attend the convention must be adequately chaperoned. Please make sure to follow your school's adult chaperone to student ratio for the number of students being brought to convention.

All student attendees should be in Official Dress. Any FFA member going on stage must be in Official Dress. Advisors are asked to review with their students what National FFA considers Official Dress, as outlined in the Official FFA Manual. Advisors and adults should wear appropriate business attire at all times.

Official Dress for an FFA member includes:

- An official FFA jacket zipped to the top.
- Black slacks and black socks/nylons or black skirt and black nylons.
- White collared blouse or white collared shirt.
- Official FFA tie or official FFA scarf.
- Black dress shoes with closed heel and toe.

Note: Official garb of recognized religions may be worn with Official Dress.

How Can You Help...

Advisors: Each advisor attending should be assisting with either a CDE/LDE or Day of Service event. We are also moving between buildings, and therefore students might need additional assistance. State staff asks that each advisor assist with a CDE/ LDE, the Day of Service/ Ag Expo, or with the Courtesy Corps. Assistance sign-ups will be done via email, as the judging card program does not support this process. **We ask that no advisor be in the same area as their team while their team is competing.**

Courtesy Corps: We ask that members who are not competing in a CDE/LDE, be assigned to the Courtesy Corps. They will be instrumental in assisting with monitoring room access for CDEs/LDEs, collecting papers, helping at the registration and information desk, taking pictures of CDEs, helping convention staff with awards, and arena logistics. Register these students under "Courtesy Corp" to calculate the correct registration fee. Then list their names under "Courtesy Corp."

Day of Service: The last line of the FFA Motto is "Living to Serve." Attendees at this year's convention will have the opportunity to do just that. Middle school and High School FFA Members will be participating in packaging blessing bags for our local area residences for Veterans. Following the packing of the bags, and lunch, Middle School members will participate in a National Officer Workshop. All members may attend the ag expo being held in the Delmarva Building with multiple vendors and presenters.

Theme

The 2022-2023 Delaware FFA Association Theme is “Level Up”



Delegates: The Delegate Business Session will be held on March 8th during the workshop rotations. Each chapter may send four (4) delegates to convention- three (3) will participate in the delegate business session and one (1) will serve on the state officer nominating committee. These four (4) individuals will provide one (1) vote on behalf of their chapter. Constitutional amendments and voting on the slate of officers will also be held on the morning of March 8th. Delegate issues and the amendments will be posted online. Any chapters submitting amendments or issues must provide it in writing to the State Office per the constitution at least one (1) month prior to State Convention, which is February 8, 2023. A copy of the current constitution is available on the Association website. Indicate your delegates on registration.

Nominating Committee: Each chapter may designate one (1) individual for Nominating Committee. The FFA Member must attend a mandatory Nominating Committee workshop on January 10th at 5:00 p.m. at the fairgrounds in order to participate. Indicate your one (1) Nominating Committee Member on registration. If the individual does not attend January 10th and February 9th for preliminaries, state staff will move the student to Day of Service.

Talent Show

This year we are going to continue to showcase the unique talents of our FFA members. They will be performing throughout our business sessions. Auditions will be held at Smyrna High School during preliminaries February 9, 2023. All members who wish to participate in the show must go to auditions in order to perform. There are no restrictions as to what is classified as a “talent,” however the association has the right to deny a member a slot in the Talent Show if we deem it inappropriate.

T- Shirts

State Convention T Shirts will be given to each member and advisor registered. Sizes should be added in Judging Card for each individual.