



TEACHER AMBASSADORS FOR FFA ORGANIZATION UPDATES

FEBRUARY 2024

Greetings!

As a National Teacher Ambassador for FFA, I wanted to share some general updates from National FFA. Please see below for updates from the various teams and programs.

As always, please reach out with any questions.

Thank you!

Educational Development & Evaluation Team

- **National Teacher Ambassadors for FFA Application is Now Live:** Applications are now open for the 2024-25 National Teacher Ambassadors for FFA cohort. Applications will close on March 1. The National Teacher Ambassadors for FFA are selected and provided training from National FFA on various educator resources and experiences offered by the organization. Once trained, teacher ambassadors serve in their home state by being a resource for other agricultural educators and answering questions related to the educator resources and experiences. [Apply today!](#)



- **New Report: How FFA Alumni and Supporters Speak About Their Own FFA Experience:** A [new report](#) features testimonials from FFA Alumni and Supporters about the skills they learned in FFA, where they are now in their careers, and why they choose to support FFA today. This report is a helpful tool to help display the impact of FFA on members' futures to administrators, parents and community partners. The responses were collected from over 500 FFA Alumni and Supporters in Spring 2023 through a survey sent through the Forever Blue Network.

S.A.E. for All



- **SAE for All Information Sheets:** Looking for a way to explain and promote SAEs to parents and administrators? Check out these newly created resources for you to use. The info sheets explain SAEs and their benefits so administrators and parents can easily understand them. You can find both info sheets [here](#).

Merchandise

- **Advisor Coupon:** Last chance to use your advisor coupon! Enjoy [20% off](#) your \$500 purchase with coupon code ADV24 through March 11. Includes awards and supplies not usually discounted! While we cannot discount the price of the official jacket, jackets do count towards the \$500 purchase minimum.
- **T-Shirt Sale:** Now through March 11, take [20% off our Best Tees](#) with coupon code BESTTEES20. Select styles only, while supplies last.

Best Tees

20% OFF
WITH COUPON CODE:
BESTTEES20

*Offer valid now through March 11. Select styles only. Cannot be combined with any other offer, coupon or discount. While supplies last.

- **Everyday Deals:** Shop our [Everyday Deals](#) category for items \$5 and under.
- **Banquet Supplies:** Get ready for your banquet with new [FFA banquet supplies!](#) From backdrops to balloons- we've got you covered!

Leadership Development Team



also register. [Register here](#). For more information, [click here](#). For questions, email mls@ffa.org.

- **2024 Washington Leadership Conference:** Registration for the 2024 Washington Leadership Conference will open at 6 p.m. EST, Tuesday, March 5. More information on WLC can be found [here](#).
- **Member Leadership Series:** Empower your students with the knowledge to be confident leaders! Registration for the 2023-24 FFA Member Leadership Series is open. Dates for this series will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis, so don't delay. Please help us share this great news with the teachers in your areas so they can

Advocacy, Literacy and Ag-Based Experiences

- **2024 Next Gen Food Products and Processing Application Closes in March:** Do you have students interested in the food products and processing pathway? The Next Gen Foods Products Processing conference is set for June 25-29 in Minneapolis, Minn. Next Gen allows students to explore pathways through informational sessions, panels and tours. Visit [here](#) for more information and to apply. The deadline for applications is Friday, March 15.
- **2024 Next Gen Environmental Services and Natural Resources Application Now Open:** Do you have students interested in the environmental services and natural resources pathway? The Next Gen Environmental Services and Natural Resources conference will be in Salt Lake City, Utah, Sept. 10-14. Visit [here](#) for more information and to apply. The deadline for applications is Wednesday, May 15.
- **Help Promote National Ag Day:** If you know a student interested in promoting agriculture, encourage them to participate in National Ag Day on Tuesday, March 19. They can sign up [here](#).



Food Products and Processing Systems
Minneapolis, Minn.
June 25-29, 2024

Application Opens: Aug 15, 2023
Application Closes: March 15, 2024

▶ APPLY NOW



Environmental Service and Natural Resources
Salt Lake City, Utah
Sept. 10-14, 2024

Application Opens: Aug 15, 2023
Application Closes: May 15, 2024

▶ APPLY NOW

Alumni and Supporters

- **2024 FFA Alumni and Supporters Grants:** Apply by March 1 at www.FFA.org/alumnigrants for funding to start or improve an alumni and supporters chapter, partner students and adults on a project, or to pay student affiliation fees.
- **Regional Development Conference:** Registration is open for the free 2024 FFA Alumni and Supporters Regional Development Conferences at www.FFA.org/gotordc. The deadline to register for the New Hampshire RDC March 15-16 is March 3.
- **Alumni and Supporters Alaska Experience:** Join FFA Alumni and Supporters as they embark on a four-day journey in Anchorage, Alaska, June 22-25, 2024. This experience could be paired with the regional development conference June 21-22 for a great professional development opportunity! For more information and to reserve your spot, visit <http://www.ffa.org/alumni-and-supporters/events/>.

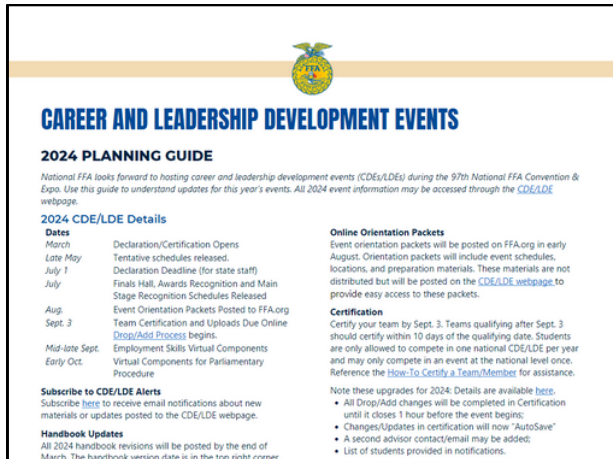


Foundation

- **Nominate Seniors for the DEKALB® Agricultural Accomplishment Award:** Nominate standout FFA members for the DEKALB® Agricultural Accomplishment Award. This honor is given to one FFA member per chapter, per year. Only FFA advisors can nominate, and the nominee must be a high school senior. Go [here](#) for full guidelines and submission requirements. The nomination deadline is Friday, March 15.
- **Join the #IAmAg Social Media Campaign:** To raise awareness about food, agriculture and STEM, join other agriculture enthusiasts and youth by participating in #IAmAg — a social media campaign to highlight people and careers in ag and raise awareness leading up to National Ag Day. On Friday, March 1, post on social media using #IamAg and share how your current or future career or FFA involvement makes an impact. [Learn more, view post ideas, and access a customizable photo frame.](#)
- **Zoetis Industry Support Program:** The Zoetis Industry Support Program allows local veterinarians who sell select Zoetis cattle products to choose up to five local FFA chapters or state FFA associations/foundations to receive a 1% rebate of sales, up to \$1,000. This year's program runs Feb. 1-April 30. Encourage your local vet to participate and refer them to the 2024 [Zoetis Industry Support Program promotional flyer](#) or call 866-611-2626 for more information. [Learn more.](#)
- **Local Engagement Programs:** The National FFA Foundation's spring local engagement programs are open. These programs involve local facilities or retailers signing up to support local FFA chapters by providing financial assistance and/or FFA jackets. Reach out to these retailers in your community and encourage them to enroll in their respective programs to support your chapter.
 - Darling Ingredients Blue Jacket Program: Enrollment closes Friday, May 31.
 - Culver's Blue Jacket Program: Enrollment closes Friday, May 31.
 - Syngenta Blue Jacket Program: Enrollment closes Friday, June 14
 - Syngenta Rising Sun Program: Enrollment closes Friday, June 14.
 - Ram Chapter Financial Assistance Program: Enrollment open Tuesday, March 19, to Monday, July 1.



Awards and Recognition



CAREER AND LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT EVENTS

2024 PLANNING GUIDE

National FFA looks forward to hosting career and leadership development events (CDEs/LDEs) during the 97th National FFA Convention & Expo. Use this guide to understand updates for this year's events. All 2024 event information may be accessed through the [CDE/LDE webpage](#).

2024 CDE/LDE Details

Dates	Details	Online Orientation Packets
March	Declaration/Certification Opens	Event orientation packets will be posted on FFA.org in early August. Orientation packets will include event schedules, locations, and preparation materials. These materials are not distributed but will be posted on the CDE/LDE webpage to provide easy access to these packets.
Late May	Tentative schedules released.	
July 1	Declaration Deadline (for state staff)	
July	Finals Hall, Awards Recognition and Main Stage Recognition Schedules Released	
Aug.	Event Orientation Packets Posted to FFA.org	
Sept. 3	Team Certification and Uploads Due Online Drop/Add Process begins.	Certification Certify your team by Sept. 3. Teams qualifying after Sept. 3 should certify within 10 days of the qualifying date. Students are only allowed to compete in an event at the national level once. Reference the How-To Certify a Team/Member for assistance.
Mid-late Sept.	Employment Skills Virtual Components	Note these upgrades for 2024: Details are available here .
Early Oct.	Virtual Components for Parliamentary Procedure	<ul style="list-style-type: none">All Drop/Add changes will be completed in Certification until it closes 1 hour before the event begins.Changes/Updates in certification will now "AutoSave"A second advisor contact/email may be added.List of students provided in notifications.

Subscribe to CDE/LDE Alerts
Subscribe [here](#) to receive email notifications about new materials or updates posted to the CDE/LDE webpage.

Handbook Updates
All 2024 handbook revisions will be posted by the end of March. The handbook version date is in the top right corner.

- **Career and Leadership Development Events:** The [2024 CDE and LDE Event Planning Guide](#) is now available. It can be found on the [Career and Leadership Development Events webpage](#). Go to the "Key Resources" section and select the 97th National FFA Convention & Expo link.

Advisors may encounter error messages when accessing materials from FFA's BOX folders. You can download the document in the background. The message is a result of a local firewall. Please share this [BOX Help link](#) with your IT staff for assistance.

- **National FFA Award and Recognition Program Revision Update:** Over the last several years, considerable interest has been expressed in revising the National FFA Awards and Recognition Programs (Degrees, Stars, National Chapter, Agricultural Proficiency Awards, Agriscience Fair, and CDEs and LDEs). FFA members, state leaders, and industry representatives have all expressed interest in giving students more career awareness opportunities, especially in emerging and technological areas of the agriculture industry. As a result of this interest, a goal was included in the National FFA Strategic Plan to "Re-envision national level programs that align with industry competencies and standards while ensuring they are relevant to today's youth." At the Team Ag Ed Inservice, a [presentation](#) and [handout](#) were provided. It describes the progress in updating and revising the National FFA Award and Recognition Programs.

- **Agricultural Proficiency Award & American FFA Degree Tip:**

Before submitting agricultural proficiency or American FFA degree applications for national judging please carefully check all contact information on the cover page to ensure it is correct and up to date. Please especially check all of the following:

- Name: This should be shown EXACTLY as it should appear on certificates, award presentation screens, etc. Including correct capitalization.
 - Phone Number: This is the number national staff will call if they need information from the applicant.
 - Email Address: Ensure it is correct, current and do not use a school email address that outside emails cannot be sent to, that become inaccessible during the summer or after graduation.
 - Chapter Advisor(s): Click the "Refresh" button to ensure the latest advisor information is showing. Advisors, please ensure this information is up to date.
- **Awards and Recognition Historical Awards Database:** The Awards and Recognition Historical Database is now accessible through FFA.org. To navigate to the database, please use [this article](#). State Staff and Teachers have access to the database through profile. If you have questions, please reach out to Madeline Young myoung@ffa.org.
 - **Honorary Awards:** The honorary awards application is now open. Please consider submitting nominations for individuals and companies that have made outstanding contributions to the National FFA organization and/or Agriculture Education. [Click here](#) to submit your nominations. The deadline to submit nominations is June 15. As a reminder, [guidelines](#) for nominations and [application directions](#) are available on FFA.org. Please contact honorary@ffa.org with any questions.



- **National Chapter – Looking for ways to summarize your chapter activities?** Utilize the Chapter Planning Sheet to help your chapter officers ideate potential chapter activities. Once chapter officers have completed the chapter planning sheets, use the Summary Page to summarize the activities your chapter will do.

The top screenshot shows the 'Program of Activities: Form 1 Summary' with a table for tracking progress across three categories: Growing Leaders, Building Communities, and Strengthening Agriculture. The bottom screenshot shows the 'Program of Activities: Form 1' with fields for Division, Quality Standard, Name of Committee, Committee Purpose, Committee Members, and Committee Chairperson(s). It also includes a table for listing activities with columns for Activity Name and Goal(s).

- **Agriscience Fair – Are you looking for ways to improve your Agriscience Fair manuscript?** Take a look at these short [videos](#) developed by students and staff at the University of Florida to better understand the manuscript components of the National FFA Agriscience Fair.
- **Committee All Call:** National FFA is seeking applicants to serve as committee members for the National Chapter Award Program, Agriscience Fair Award Program and SAE Based Awards & Degrees (Agricultural Proficiency Awards, American Degree, and American Stars). We are looking for representatives from education (secondary or post-secondary) or industry. Committee members will work with the committee superintendent and National FFA staff to coordinate the direction and implementation of the national event. Interested applicants should refer to the [committee position description](#) for more information. Applicants must complete the [Committee Member Nomination form](#). The nomination deadline is Wednesday, March 6. For additional information about the open committee positions or questions, please contact Madeline Young at myoung@ffa.org.



- **Sign Up to Serve as a Judge for National FFA:** Interact with FFA members nationwide and learn about their projects, research, community service and more. Serve as a judge for the National FFA Organization! Over a thousand judges are needed each year to select national finalists, national winners, and grant recipients. Online and in-person opportunities are available. [CLICK HERE](#) to complete a short interest form to be invited to judging opportunities as they become available throughout the year. For questions regarding judging, reach out to judges@ffa.org.