



Office of Agricultural Education
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MEMO

September 1, 2009

To: 82nd National FFA Convention Attendees

From: Erin E. Noble, State FFA Specialist

Re: 82nd National FFA Convention Details

The 82nd National FFA Convention will be held in Indianapolis, IN from October 21-24, 2009. The "Second Edition of the Advisor's Planning Guide" is available online to help you prepare for this event. This memo highlights several items you should be aware of. Information is also available at http://www.ffa.org/index.cfm?method=c_convention.convention. I encourage you to use this resource as you prepare for convention.

Participant Lists, Advisor Statement of Assurances, and Student Codes of Conduct

If you have not submitted your Participant List, Student Codes of Conduct, and the Advisor Statement of Assurances, please submit them to the Office of Agricultural Education immediately. These materials can be downloaded from http://www.jerseyageducation.nj.gov/agriculture/ag_ed/bulletin/NatConParticipantForm.xls. The participant list can be sent via e-mail to ag.ed.registration@ag.state.nj.us. The Advisor Statement of Assurances and Student Codes of Conduct can be faxed to 609-633-2421 or mailed.

National FFA Convention New Jersey Room Block

We are still waiting to submit the rooming list for the New Jersey FFA delegation at the **Marriott Indianapolis East**, 7202 East 21st Street, Indianapolis, Indiana 46219. Their phone number is (317) 352-1231. **Room rates for the Marriott Indianapolis East per day are \$164.72 inclusive of tax.** FFA Chapters are not eligible for tax exemption in the state of Indiana. The final room payment will be due directly to the hotel upon arrival/departure from the hotel. The Marriott Indianapolis East will accept a school purchase order, if the paperwork is prepared in advance. The hotel's website is <http://marriott.com/property/propertypage/INDDT>

Our Marriott Indianapolis East contact is Diana Baldwin. *You will need to contact her at (317) 352- 1164 to get the balance of your hotel expenses for the week, confirm your arrival and departure dates and identify any special room needs.*

If you have not submitted the \$50 fee per room to the Office of Agricultural Education, please do so immediately. Checks should be made payable to: Treasurer, State of NJ and indicate "FFA Room Deposit" in the memo section.

2009 National FFA Convention Indianapolis Housing Incentive *(as per National FFA Organization)*

“The registration fee for the 2009 National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, IN, has been set by the FFA Board of Directors at \$40 per person for those using the Indianapolis housing block. For those not using the official Indianapolis housing block, however, the standard \$50 registration fee will apply. The \$50 fee will also apply to those who drive in locally to the convention.”

If you are not in the New Jersey Room Block, you can request rooms through the National FFA Chapter Housing Block by September 8, 2009. Information is available at http://www.ffa.org/index.cfm?method=c_convention.housing

Courtesy Corps

The National FFA Convention Courtesy Corps assists convention staff in all activities of the National FFA Convention. Slots are filling up fast, so apply now! Find out more about what Courtesy Corps does at http://www.ffa.org/index.cfm?method=c_convention.volunteers.

Pre-registration for Convention

Pre-registration is open and will be accepted until 5pm on Wednesday October 7, 2009. There are two ways to register for National Convention:

1. The National FFA Online registration system
 - a. Directions are available at http://www.ffa.org/index.cfm?method=c_convention.registration
 - b. You need to have a myFFA account
 - c. This is the only way to register for National Day of Service Activities and Career Success Tours
2. By mailing or faxing the Official Pre-registration form that was included in your “Advisor’s Planning Guide”

Be sure to include housing and emergency contact information on your registration. Tickets and convention buttons will be shipped to you via UPS and should be received by October 15, 2009.

State Suite

Tentative receptions are planned throughout convention for New Jersey’s special guests. Additional suite information will be provided at a later date. A limited amount of tickets for each session are available. An email will go out in late September to request these suite tickets.

State Photo

New Jersey’s state photo will occur at **12:45 pm on Thursday, Oct. 22** in Lucas Oil Stadium. Hope to see you there!

State Booth

The New Jersey FFA Association will have a booth in the Hall of States at the Career Show highlighting agricultural careers in New Jersey and how FFA prepares students for career success. Allison Karr, State FFA Sentinel will be coordinating the booth.

We encourage chapter members to participate in staffing the booth with the State FFA Officers during convention. Please send an e-mail to erin.noble@ag.state.nj.us by October 1, indicating the member’s name, available date(s) and available time frame(s). Career show hours are:

- Wednesday, October 21- 11:30pm – 6:00 pm
- Thursday, October 22 – 8:00 am – 6:00 pm
- Friday, October 23 – 8:00 am – 4:00 pm

I will provide a staffing schedule to chapters prior to convention. Members who staff the booth will need to be in official dress and participate in a training session prior to working in the booth. This is a great opportunity for members to practice their public speaking skills and share their FFA experiences with others.

Transportation and Parking

Ground and air transportation arrangements should be made by individual chapters to meet your needs and to take full advantage of low cost travel and most convenient arrival and departure locations. An FFA member will not travel to the National Convention without his/her FFA advisor/ chaperone, who is responsible for members at all times.

FFA has secured parking spaces for convention attendees. **You can purchase prepaid parking passes through online convention registration.**

Passes will provide a parking space (for automobiles, minivans, 15 passenger vans and pick-up trucks) in the same lot or garage for the entire convention and will have in and out privileges. Please note there are separate lots for busses and vehicles. Please plan accordingly.

If you are staying in a downtown hotel, you will have the option of using hotel parking and will need to arrange that directly through the hotel.

Additional parking information is available at http://www.ffa.org/index.cfm?method=c_convention.travel

Getting Around Indy –“FFA Way” and Shuttles

The easiest, safest, and most direct route between the convention arena (Conseco Fieldhouse) and the Indiana Convention Center (career show, shopping mall, Finals Hall, and other events) will be “**FFA Way.**” Half of George Street will be cordoned off for pedestrian use. Be alert to vehicular traffic sharing the street.

Shuttles will be available between the Indiana Convention Center and the State Fairgrounds (CDEs), and several hotel campuses. Be sure to check with your hotel desk to determine shuttle pick-up and drop off locations and schedule. **Shuttle passes for the entire convention can be purchased through online convention registration.** These shuttles will load and unload on the south curb lane of Maryland Street between West and Capitol, on Capitol, between Maryland and the convention center plaza, and the northeast side of Lucas Oil Stadium.

Please check the parking map to locate vehicle and bus parking lots

<http://www.indydt.com/parking.cfm>. Parking passes are available through registration.

Free shuttle service will be provided Wednesday and Thursday to transport FFA attendees to and from the Indiana Convention Center and the Indiana State Fairgrounds for Career Development Events and photos.

Shuttles between key hotels and the convention center are on limited schedules this year. Please check out the website for more information.

More information is available at http://www.ffa.org/index.cfm?method=c_convention.travel.

Career Development Events

If there are any changes in the Career Development Event team registration, this must be done on a National Add/Delete form. This form is downloadable from the list on the right hand side of the page http://www.ffa.org/index.cfm?method=c_programs.CDE . CDE Add/Delete forms must be submitted through the state office by **October 1st**. Changes after that time can still be made, **if necessary**, but they must be made on-site at the National Convention and will require your membership roster as well as a signed CDE waiver. By now, you should have received your CDE Team Orientation Packets and Schedule of

Events. This information, as well as Superintendents Notes, is also available at http://www.ffa.org/index.cfm?method=c_programs.CDEevents#agcom.

Some CDEs will take place at the Indiana State Fairgrounds. It is recommended that once at the fairgrounds for a CDE your team stays there for all activities, including meals. Not all CDE photographs will be taken at the fairgrounds. Refer to your team orientation packet for photo locations.

Dress

Official dress is required at all sessions for the 82nd National Convention. It is important to maintain the professional, positive image that FFA has earned. Proper official dress lends members a unique identity. Refer to the Official FFA Manual for a complete description of official dress or go to http://www.ffa.org/index.cfm?method=c_students.OfficialDress.

Casual clothing needs to be selected for the trip with attention given to presenting the proper image for New Jersey FFA and the school district you are representing.

National FFA Day of Service

Two National FFA Days of Service will be held at National Convention. The goal of this event is to promote civic engagement and service learning for FFA members. These events will be held on Thursday, October 22 and Friday, October 23. Registration can be completed online http://www.ffa.org/index.cfm?method=c_aged.DaysofService.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at 877-AgEd FFA.



National Convention - Experience It!

“The New Jersey FFA Association is a resource and support organization that does not select, control or supervise local chapter or individual member activities except as expressly provided for in the state FFA constitution, bylaws or policies.”