

[NEW JERSEY FFA

New Jersey Department of Agriculture | Office of Food, Agriculture & Natural Resources Education
200 Riverview Plaza, 3rd Floor | P.O. Box 330 | Trenton, NJ 08625 | 877-AgEdFFA | jerseyageducation.nj.gov

In cooperation with the New Jersey Department of Education

MEMO



September 1, 2023

To: 96th National FFA Convention & Expo Attendees

From: Erin E. Noble, State FFA Advisor

Re: 96th National FFA Convention & Expo Details

The 96th National FFA Convention & Expo will be held in Indianapolis, IN from November 1-4, 2023. Advisor planning information is available online to help you prepare for this event. This memo highlights several items you should be aware of regarding the convention. Information is also available at <https://www.ffa.org/events/conventionandexpo>. I encourage you to use this resource as you prepare for the convention.

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

Participant List, Student Codes of Conduct, and the Advisor Statement of Assurances are due **September 1**. Please submit these items to the Office of Agricultural Education immediately. The Participant List can be found here: <https://form.jotform.us/NJFFA/national-convention> and the Student Code of Conduct and Advisor Statement of Assurances can be downloaded from JotForm. The Advisor Statement of Assurances and Student Codes of Conduct should be uploaded to your Participant List.

National FFA Convention & Expo New Jersey Room Block

The New Jersey FFA delegation will be staying at the **SpringHill Suites Indianapolis Airport-Plainfield – 6014 Gateway Drive, Plainfield, IN 46168**. Housing cut-off date is September 13 at 5 pm EDT. After this date, all unused rooms will be released back to National FFA. This is also the last day to cancel existing reservations with no penalty. The deadline for any changes to an existing reservation within Passkey is October 4, 2023 at 5 pm EDT.

Please note: the hotels will NOT have your information until October 5.* Please do not contact the hotel prior to October 5. **Room rate for the SpringHill Suites Indianapolis Airport-Plainfield Two Queen Studio Suite (up to 6 people): \$172.00 per night (EXCLUSIVE of tax) and King Studio Suite (up to 4 people): \$172 per night (EXCLUSIVE of tax). Breakfast is included in the room rate. This amount will be due directly to the hotel upon arrival/departure from the hotel. **DO NOT contact the hotel before October 5.**

Online Reservation Process:

- All attendees will be booking online on the Housing website with a valid credit card. Credit cards must have an expiration date of December 1, 2023 or later. State Blocks have pre- assigned inventory. Reservations may be booked online utilizing this designated URL: <https://book.passkey.com/go/2023NJState> .
- Rooms will be available on a first come first served basis. Quantities are limited!
- **As of 8/30/23 this is the availability in our state's housing block:**

	10/28	10/29	10/30	10/31	11/01	11/02	11/03	11/04
SpringHill Suites Indianapolis Airport Plainfield								
Studio King Suite w/ Sofa Bed	0	0	0	4	8	8	8	0
Studio Queen/Queen Suite w/ Sofa Bed	0	0	0	1	0	0	8	0

- Purchase Orders: Arrangements to pay final hotel bill by purchase order must be made in advance directly with the hotel. A purchase order may not be an acceptable form of payment at all hotels.
- Room Cancellations:
 - Room reservations cancelled between May 10 - September 13 will **NOT** incur a cancellation fee per room cancelled.
 - Room reservations cancelled between September 14 – October 4 will incur a one night's room and tax, non-refundable cancellation fee per room cancelled to be charged by the reservations system. You may make changes to the reservation without penalty, but if the reservation is cancelled the penalty fee will be charged to the credit card associated with the reservation. Prior to making the cancellation you may go into the reservation and change the credit card.
 - Room reservations cancelled between October 5 and the arrival date will incur a 1 night's room and tax cancellation policy to be charged by the hotel for each room reservation canceled.

2023 National FFA Convention & Expo Housing Process: State Block Housing FAQ:

<https://ffa.app.box.com/s/l9vjy6ga1xys7lugu43i97uj6y1sly0c>

If you are not in the New Jersey Room Block, the National FFA Chapter Housing Block has limited housing available. For more information on the National Housing Block, please go to

<https://convention.ffa.org/planning/housing/>. Housing will close on September 27, 2023 at 5:00 pm EDT.

Registration for Convention

Registration is required to enter one opening session, general sessions, American Degree Ceremony, Expo, Shopping Mall, and Student and Teacher Workshops.

Early Bird Registration opens Wednesday, September 20 at 6:00 pm EDT. Standard registration begins Wednesday, October 11, 2023 at 8:00 pm EDT. The following registration fees have been set for the 2023 National FFA Convention & Expo:

\$80 – Early Bird Registration Rate (register before 8:00 pm EDT on Wednesday, October 11)

\$100 – Standard Registration Rate (opens at 8:00 pm EDT on Wednesday, October 11)

\$105 – Onsite Registration Rate (begins on Tuesday, October 31)

Daily Registration is also available. More information regarding convention registration is available at

<https://convention.ffa.org/planning/registration/>

#SpeakAg State Showcase – NEW IN 2023

After a successful pilot program during the 95th National FFA Convention & Expo, all chapters are invited to tell their state's agriculture story through the #SpeakAg Showcase. Chapters are encouraged to create a 1:00 to 2:30 minute digital promotion showcasing agriculture in their state. All submissions will be featured at the National FFA Convention & Expo, and winners will be recognized during a session. All entries will be given the opportunity to present their video on the Student Showcase Stage. **Videos are due to National FFA by Monday, October 3.** Winners will receive banners for their chapter. For full details and guidelines visit,

<https://ffa.app.box.com/s/7pcv3sc23wqtdn0yoef5m5rrn80f4emu>.

Courtesy Corps

The National FFA Convention Courtesy Corps is a great way for FFA members to volunteer their time and go behind the scenes at convention. Members will assist convention staff in fulfilling responsibilities in many areas including career development events, proficiency awards, FFA newsroom and more. Find out more about what Courtesy Corps does at <https://convention.ffa.org/planning/courtesy-corps/>.

Entertainment

All concert and rodeo tickets are sold through Ticketmaster. Tickets for the concert and rodeos go on sale, **September 27 at 6:00 pm**. Only registered convention attendees may purchase tickets and attend. All Ticketmaster tickets utilize Mobile Entry technology; no paper tickets are available.

Convention Concert: Lainey Wilson with special guest Dillon Carmichael
Gainbridge Fieldhouse – Wednesday, November 1 (doors open at 7:00 pm)
\$60 per person

World's Toughest Rodeo: Indiana Farmers Coliseum (Indiana State Fairgrounds)
Evening Shows: Wednesday, November 1, Thursday, November 2, and
Friday, November 3 (Doors open at 5:00 pm EDT)
Matinee: Friday, November 3 (Doors open at 12:00 pm EDT)
\$35 per person

Hypnotist Shows: "HYPNOTIZED LIVE" featuring Michael C. Anthony
Indiana Convention center, Sagamore Ballroom
Evening Shows: Thursday, November 2 and Friday, November 3
Doors Open at 5:30 pm EDT
\$25 per person

Ford Trucks National Convention Travel Chapter Assistance

National FFA and Ford Trucks recognizes that chapters across the country struggle with identifying funding sources to assist in travel to the 96th National FFA Convention & Expo. Ford Trucks wants to help remove barriers and support FFA members. The purpose of the Convention Travel Chapter Assistance is to provide FFA chapters with an opportunity to receive \$1,000 in funding to help subsidize the cost of attending the 96th National FFA Convention & Expo with travel, lodging, meals, ticketed events, and registration.

All FFA chapters are encouraged to apply. Priority will be given to chapters:

- Whose school districts have high free and reduced lunch rates.
- That have a diverse membership.
- Who are first time attendees or 5 years or more since attending.

Twenty-five chapters will be selected to receive the travel assistance.

Apply for the Ford Travel Assistance here: <https://form.jotform.com/232115471717149>. The form closes on **September 11**.

New Jersey FFA Breakfast – RSVP by Tuesday, September 26, 2023

The New Jersey FFA Breakfast will be held on **Wednesday, November 1, 2023 at the Indiana Convention Center (100 S Capitol Ave, Indianapolis, IN 46225) from 6:45 – 8:15 a.m.** Breakfast will begin at 6:45 am. Please arrive promptly at 6:45 am, you may leave as your schedule permits, but it is important that you arrive by 6:45 am. Please RSVP by Tuesday, September 26, 2023 at <https://form.jotform.us/NJFFA/NatConRSVP> with the number of attendees you will have at the breakfast. Additional information will be provided as it becomes available.

State Suite

A limited number of tickets for each session are available in the state suite. Please submit the form at <https://form.jotform.us/NJFFA/NatConRSVP> by September 26 to request suite tickets. Tickets will be distributed on a first come first served basis.

Travel Planning

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.

Parking Reservations

Parking passes are sold by vehicle type (cars, buses, passenger vans, etc.) by various parking vendors in Indianapolis. See the Travel Planning Page for prices and locations: <https://convention.ffa.org/travel-planning/>

CDE/LDE Shuttles

Courtesy shuttles between the Indiana Convention Center and the Indiana State Fairgrounds are provided for all registered convention and expo participants participating in CDE/LDE events at Indiana State Fairgrounds. Shuttles depart approximately every 15 minutes. Allow 20 minutes for one-way travel. Shuttles will run from 6:00 am – 4:00 pm on Wednesday and Thursday.

Shuttle Stops: Indiana Convention Center (Maryland Street, just west of Capitol Avenue)

Indiana State Fair Grounds (South curb lane of State Fair Main Street, north of West Pavilion)

Career/Leadership Development Events

CDE Team Orientation Packets and Schedule of Events are available online - <https://www.ffa.org/participate/cde-ide/> All CDE & LDE participants must have a completed convention registration, which includes their waiver.

Refer to your team orientation packet for event locations including photos, award ceremonies, team meetings, etc.

Attire

Official dress is required at all sessions for the 96th National FFA Convention & Expo. It is important to maintain the professional, positive image that FFA has earned. Proper official dress lends members a unique identity. Refer to page 28 and 29 of the Official FFA Manual for Official Dress Guidelines
<https://ffa.app.box.com/s/z6bkjdmqd7e329a58a27e5xn1fzcqegq>.

When selecting casual clothing, attention should be given to presenting the proper image for New Jersey FFA and the school district you are representing.

National FFA Day of Service

Registration for National Days of Service is available through the convention online registration. Go to <https://convention.ffa.org/national-days-of-service/> for more information.

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

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."

L:\FFA\F4Nat Convention\Septemberconvteachmemo.doc