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State Superintendent of Schools

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To: Maryland Agriculture Teachers/FFA Advisors
From: Terrie Shank, FFA Executive Director/Naomi Knight, FFA Program Coordinator
RE: Maryland FFA State Convention Registration
Date: April 24, 2017

It is with great excitement that the Maryland FFA State Officer Team and Staff invite all Maryland FFA members and Advisors to attend the 89th Maryland FFA State Convention. The convention will be held Monday, June 26 through Wednesday, June 28, 2017 at the Maritime Conference Center. There are many career/leadership development events, student and advisor leadership workshops, and inspirational speakers lined up to help us continue to BE BOLD as FFA members and advisors! We are so proud to have our National FFA President, David Townsend to join us for the entire event. This year, members and guests will have the opportunity to support the men and women of our military through participation in Operation Gratitude service projects. We will be making paracord bracelets, writing thank you cards and collecting stuffed toys. Our chapter challenge this year is for each chapter to bring stuffed toys 6" or less to send to our military. Drop them off at time of check in. Mrs. Karen Hutchison, LPS Specialist from the National FFA, will be conducting special FFA Advisor Training on Monday.

We are very happy to be holding the convention at the Maritime Conference Center, located at 692 Maritime Blvd, Linthicum Heights, MD 21090 with a contact phone: (410) 859-5700.

Check in for chapters are on Monday, June 26th from 9:00 am-12:00 pm in the Conference Center lobby to verify registration and obtain convention programs. The projected close of the convention is Wednesday, June 28th by 4:00 pm, so plan transportation accordingly.

Advisors, please plan to attend the Advisor/Coaches Meeting from 11:00-11:30 am in the Bridge Room, where last minute details will be presented. Each chapter can designate two members to serve as voting delegates and be sure they are present at the first Delegate Meeting on Monday, from 11:00-11:30 in the Auditorium, followed by lunch for all convention attendees in the dining hall from 11:30 am-12:30 pm.

The Career/Leadership Development Events will begin Monday at 1:00 pm in various locations throughout the Conference Center. The first convention session will begin at 7:00 pm in the Auditorium. (See attached schedule of events with locations and times.)

The cost for the convention includes: 2 nights lodging, 2 breakfasts, 3 lunches, 2 dinners, dessert social, dance, convention T-shirt, registration and insurance.

Student rate: Quads (2 Double beds) \$235.00/pp
Triple (2 Double beds) \$260.00/pp
Advisor/Adult: Double- \$300.00/pp
Advisor/Adult: Single-\$450.00

Note: Students and Advisors/Adults- not staying overnight will be charged \$80/day which includes lunch on that day and conference registration, or \$160 full conference (3 lunches and registration).

The cost of each Career/Leadership Development Event: \$10/individual or \$35/team

MD FFA Foundation Chapter Delegate discount: \$20/delegate, with up to two per chapter
(To obtain discount, be sure to enter them first on the registration form)

Regional Star Greenhand awardee discount: Be sure to enter student name in the invoice to receive discount from the MD FFA Foundation. (The five Advisors will be notified prior to June 1st)

Submit the Excel Chapter Registration online by Monday, May 15, 2017 via the wufoo link on the homepage of the Maryland FFA website. www.mdffa.org

Mail or fax the following information by Thursday, June 1st:

1. Submit Student Special Needs Request Form
2. Honorary State FFA Degree or Honorary American Degree applications
3. Printed invoice from the excel sheet tab marked, "Invoice" and full payment
4. All student waivers submitted, preferably via the wufoo link under State Convention

Mail or fax items 1-3 to the attention of:

Mrs. Terrie Shank, MD FFA Executive Director
925 North East Street, Frederick, MD 21701
Fax: 301-663-4305

Final payments must be received no later than Thursday, June 1, 2017 to the "MD FFA Association". As per the MD FFA Board of Directors, all outstanding balances must be paid in full prior to registering for the state convention.

Be mindful that some CDE/LDE Materials must be mailed and postmarked by Monday, May 15th:

- Junior & Senior Prepared Public Speaking manuscripts (5 copies each)
- Portfolios/Plans for: Agriculture Issues, Ag. Communications, Marketing Plan (5 copies each)
- National Chapter Award Application (1 copy)

Please be sure to register students for a CDE/LDE or workshop in each time frame. Note: Veterinary Science will only allow for a 4 member team to participate this year due to high demand. A schedule of workshops is also attached. Students not in a CDE/LDE will be expected to participate in the workshops provided. Only the designated chapter delegates will take part of the committee meetings on Wednesday. All other students are to register for the Chapter Challenge Game.

National FFA Convention and Big E Waivers will not be collected during the state convention. It will be the responsibility of the winning chapter to obtain them online, complete and submit to the respective event coordinator by the deadlines outlined on each website.

Tickets for the two dinners of the convention for guests may be ordered by contacting the MD FFA Program Coordinator, Naomi Knight at nknight@maefonline by June 1st and pay at the door. The dinner prior to the MD FFA Alumni Annual Meeting on Monday, June 26th is \$25.00/person; and the Past State Officers Dinner on Tuesday, June 27th is \$25.00/person. Attendees will not be charged any additional registration fees to attend the convention sessions that follow.

Help us celebrate all the many great things happening in the local chapters and in the Maryland FFA Association. Be Bold and attend the 89th Maryland FFA State Convention. Hope to see you there!