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To: Agriculture Instructors/FFA Advisors
From: Terrie Shank, MD FFA Executive Director
RE: Maryland FFA Advocacy Day in Annapolis
Date: January 4, 2019

The Maryland FFA will be hosting an *Advocacy Day in Annapolis* on Thursday, February 21, 2019 for Chapter leaders. Join the Maryland FFA State Officers as we learn about the legislative process in our State and meet with our Legislators to share our FFA and Maryland Agriculture stories. **Official FFA Dress is required.** Due to the limited seating in the Legislative chambers and on the tours, we must limit our group to a total of 120 students/advisors. Registration will be on a first come basis. Those registering for this event after the group limit for guided tours is reached will still be able to schedule meeting with Legislators, join the MD FFA Association group for lunch and witness the sessions of both the House of Delegates and Senate on their own. In the event of inclement weather and the closure of schools, this event will not be rescheduled.

We will start the day meeting as a group in the Joint Hearing Room of the House Building at 9:00 a.m. We will have a brief orientation and group photo taken prior to meeting our tour guides. Each group will visit the Legislative galleries, tour the Maryland State House and Government House. Please allow for time going through security. **For security reasons, all adults (over 16 years of age) must have a photo identification card to enter the Maryland State House and other buildings in the legislative complex. Please be prepared to have your purses and bags searched at the security desk in each building. Everyone in the group will have to walk-through a metal detector when entering the buildings.**

The opening sessions of the legislature will start at 10:00 a.m. Seating is limited, so plan to be seated in the balcony of the chambers by 9:45 a.m. We encourage you to arrive in time to witness the House and Senate in general session and be recognized as a Proclamation of FFA Week in Maryland will be presented in the Senate chambers. A similar House Resolution will also be presented.

Lunch will follow the tour at noon. Guest Speakers, Mr. Colby Ferguson, Maryland Farm Bureau Government Relations Director and Mr. Parker Welch will share with the members "How the Legislative process works and tips for "Telling your story."

From 1:00 pm until 3:00 p.m., FFA members and Advisors are encouraged to attend the legislative committee meetings and schedule appointments with their local Senators and Delegates to share their stories of agriculture and the FFA.

Parking is available in the public parking garages or you can park at the Navy-Marine Corps Stadium and take the trolley. The trolley will drop you off at the College Avenue bus stop beside the Department of Legislative Services Building. **If you are arriving by bus, the bus will drop the group off at the College Avenue bus stop.** The bus can park at the Navy-Marine Stadium on Rowe Boulevard and pick the group up at the same bus stop after the program concludes. Buses are not allowed on State Circle. (Information and maps are included in this email.)

The Maryland FFA State Officer team and I look forward to having you join us for this special Maryland FFA Association event. Any questions, please contact me at: 301-491-5686 or email: tshank@maefonline.com