

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 5, 2023

The Maryland FFA State Officer team and State Staff invite all members of the Maryland FFA and Advisors to attend the 95th Maryland FFA State Convention. The convention will be held Tuesday, June 27 through Thursday, June 28, 2023 on the campus of the University of Maryland, College Park. There are many career and leadership development events, student and advisor workshops and inspirational speakers lined up to “Make Waves” through the Maryland FFA. We are excited to have our National FFA Secretary, Jessica Herr from Pennsylvania joining us for the convention.

On site check-in will be held in the Plant Science Building, lower-level Critique Hall.

Meals will be available in the dining hall and are included in the housing package for the convention. Housing will be on campus in one of the dormitories. Student double room for 2 nights (6/27 & 6/28 with meals) will be \$275. Student double room for 3 nights (6/26-6/28) will be \$355 which includes breakfast on Tuesday morning and meals during the convention. Adult Single rooms are \$325 for 6/27-6/28 and Adult double rooms will be \$275 for 6/27 & 6/28 with meals. Adult double room for 3 nights 6/26-6/28 with breakfast on Tuesday morning is \$355.

Single day commuter rates are \$60/day for Tuesday and Wednesday which includes lunch and dinner each day. There is no charge for commuters on Thursday as there are no meals provided that day.

Career and Leadership development events will begin on Tuesday morning at 10:00 am. The cost of each event will be \$10/individual and/or \$40/team. Events will be held in the Plant Science, Physics and ESJ Education center all located at the front of the campus from the main entrance. Parking will be available in the adjoining garage. The Maryland FFA will not be providing free parking for those who drive to the convention. Parking passes will be available for purchase. Cost to park /day in the garage is \$15.

The opening session will begin on Tuesday evening, June 27th in the Student Union Building Hoff Theatre. There will be a second session on Wednesday night and the final session on Thursday morning. Interested parents and family members are more than welcome to join us during the sessions at no cost.

Each chapter should designate two members to serve as voting delegates to attend the delegate meetings on Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons and Thursday morning. Their attendance is also expected during the general convention sessions.

The Maryland FFA Foundation is again sponsoring one first year member from each region to attend the State Convention through the Star Greenhand program. Applications are due to Terrie Shank by April 15, 2023 and can be found on the Maryland FFA website under the Awards tab. Here is the link to the application and scoring rubric https://mdffa.org/awards/star_award. The Advisors of the Regional Stars will be notified prior to May 1st and the Chapter will receive a check from the Maryland FFA Foundation, upon the member participation in the award ceremony at the Convention on Tuesday, June 27, 2023.

Be sure to register students for a CDE/LDE or workshop in each time frame. Students not registered for a CDE/LDE are expected to participate in one of the workshops provided. A schedule for the convention events is included in the Blue Panda Registration packet on page 6.

Chapter Registration must be submitted online by via the Blue Panda Registration system by Friday, April 21, 2023. Payment in full is due by Thursday, June 1, 2023.

The following CDE/LDE materials must be mailed postmarked or emailed by **Monday, May 15, 2023** to Maryland FFA Attn: Terrie Shank, 925 North East Street, Frederick, MD 21701.

- Junior and Senior Prepared Public Speaking Manuscripts
- Portfolios/Plans for Agriculture Issues, Agriculture Communications, Marketing Plan events.
- National Chapter Award Application for National recognition.

Student Special Needs Request form for support and accommodations and a copy of the IEP are also **due by May 15th**.

Students registered to participate in the Employment Skills LDE will receive a separate communication with the due date to submit materials, their virtual interviews and access to complete the online application.

Should you have any questions about the registration process, please contact Naomi Knight nknight@maefonline.com

We look forward to celebrating 95 years of the Maryland FFA with our members, advisors and supporters. We hope you will join us!

Kendall Abruzzese, Hannah Haines, Teagan Flaherty
2022-2023 MD FFA State Officer Team