



MARYLAND FFA ASSOCIATION, INC

P.O. Box #564
29 Frederick Road #564
Funkstown, MD 21734-0564
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Maryland Agriculture Teachers/FFA Advisors

From: Terrie Shank, MD FFA Executive Director, Naomi Knight, MD FFA Program Coordinator

RE: 2023 National FFA Convention Information

Date: July 11, 2023

It is time for Maryland FFA members to represent our State at the 96th National FFA Convention to be held, October 31- November 4, 2023, in Indianapolis, Indiana.

KEY INFORMATION TO KNOW AS YOU PLAN TO ATTEND...

***Accommodations:**

Maryland State Housing block will only be available from July 14th at 6:00 p.m. through August 11th at 5:00 p.m.

National FFA Convention Housing

Housing for the 96th National FFA Convention & Expo opened at 6 p.m. EDT on Wednesday, May 10.

Visit the housing page on the convention website for more information. For those unable to attend last week's town hall meeting with tips and tricks, click here to watch the video. The Housing block closes on September 13, 2023, or when the rooms are all booked. Maryland's housing code is:

<https://book.passkey.com/go/2023MDState>

Maryland has our housing block this year at the Embassy Suites Indianapolis Downtown.

110 West Washington Street, Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

<https://www.hilton.com/en/hotels/indwwes-embassy-suites-indianapolis-downtown>

Our room block includes rooms with a check-in Tuesday 10/31/23 and a check-out Saturday 11/4/23.

Rooms in the housing block are not available on Monday or Saturday nights, so plan your travel accordingly. The rooms have either 2 double beds or a king bed and each room has a couch that pulls out to a full-size bed. The rooms are:

Standard Queen or King -1-2 people @\$205 plus \$34.85 tax (17%) for a total cost of \$239.85/night

Standard Queen or King -3-6 people @ \$212 plus \$36.04 tax (17%) for a total cost of \$248.04/night

Hot breakfast is included in the cost of the housing along with an afternoon reception from 5-6 pm.

You will need a credit card to book the rooms directly with the hotel. Rooms can be dropped without a fee by September 13th. Rooms dropped after September 13th will incur a one-night lodging fee.



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***CDE/LDE WAIVERS**

National FFA requires a waiver of release be signed electronically by everyone who attends the convention, students, advisors, volunteers, chaperones, etc. A CDE/LDE waiver is required to be completed for each participant in a career or leadership development event. This waiver will be sent electronically to the CDE/LDE participants once they are declared on their CDE/LDE team. Special Needs accommodations for students in competitive events were due to National FFA by July 1st.

All CDE waivers must be submitted online by August 2nd through your Advisor portal under certifications.

***FFA Member/Advisor Attire:**

Members are expected to wear FFA Official Dress as outlined in the official FFA manual and on the National FFA website throughout the convention. Convention sessions, tours and time at the career show are not considered casual time.

Advisors and chaperones are expected to dress in business attire during the convention including team orientations, team photos, award programs and events. It is imperative that advisors, chaperones, and students keep in mind that their dress/clothing is a reflection on the organization.

The National FFA Board of Directors expects FFA Advisors to ensure ALL FFA members who attend the National FFA Convention follow the standards of official dress as outlined in the current Official Manual. Casual FFA Dress: FFA Shirt, Jeans, Sneakers / closed shoes are appropriate for the concerts, rodeo and at the hotel.

***Travel-**

Each chapter is responsible for their own transportation to and from the convention.

There will be two charter buses offered for traveling from Maryland. They will be through Atlantic Coast Charters. The cost to ride the bus will be **\$225/person/roundtrip**. To obtain seats for you and your students on the bus, you must complete the State Bus Request form and submit it through the Maryland FFA link by August 15, 2023. Please understand that we must have a full bus to provide the charter. The bus schedule will be determined once those riding the bus have been identified.

A Receipt of Confirmation obligates you for the entire cost of riding the bus.

***Convention Registration**

The National FFA Registration portal will open for Early Bird Registration at 6 p.m. EDT on Wednesday, Sept. 20th with a cost of **\$80/person**. Early Bird Registration closes on October 10th. After that date, registration is \$100/person. FFA Advisors must go online to the National FFA Convention portal to register their students, chaperone and themselves for the convention This includes participation in CDE, tickets for award functions, special entertainment, convention registration buttons, career success



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tours, parking permits for cars and buses. Registration ID badges will be issued to all participants at the convention and will be required to enter the venues including the sessions, concerts, rodeo, and other events.

***Tickets for the concert and rodeo**

Tickets for the concert and rodeo will be available through Ticketmaster again this year. To access the private event site, you must have your convention registration confirmation number and will only be able to purchase tickets for the same number of individuals you have registered for the convention.

***State Photos:**

There will be no organized State Photos taken again this year. There will be many photo sites available throughout the convention complex for Chapters to take group pictures.