

To: Agriculture Instructors/FFA Advisors
From: Terrie Shank, MD FFA Executive Director
RE: Maryland FFA Advocacy Day in Annapolis
Date: December 13, 2023

The Maryland FFA will be hosting an Advocacy Day in Annapolis on Wednesday, February 28, 2024, 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. The cost for each person to attend is \$20.00. Through the generosity of the Damascus FFA Chapter, an Atlantic Coast Charter bus has been contracted to pick up students and advisors at the Park and Ride in Frederick, MD located on Patrick Street extended and I70. The bus will leave Frederick at 6:45 am and return by 5:00 p.m.

We will start the day meeting as a group at the Calvert House, (Address) 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 and tour the Maryland State House. Please allow time to go 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. Should your students not be able to participate on the morning tours, please schedule them to meet with their local legislators between 11:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m.

Lunch will follow the tour at noon in the Calvert House.

A second tour will be offered this year from 1:00 pm until 2:30 p.m. for those who wish to visit legislators in the morning or will be arriving mid-morning. 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 at the Navy-Marine Corps Stadium and from there take the trolley to the Capitol. 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 to park on State Circle.

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