



MARYLAND FFA ASSOCIATION, INC

P.O. Box #564
29 Frederick Road #564
Funkstown, MD 21734-0564
301-491-5686

Maryland Agriculture Teachers/FFA Advisors

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

RE: 2026 National FFA Convention Information

Date: August 6, 2026

It is time for Maryland FFA members to represent our State at the 99th National FFA Convention to be held, October 20- October 24, 2026, in Indianapolis, Indiana.

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

National FFA Convention Housing

Housing for the 99th National FFA Convention & Expo opened in May. Visit the housing page on the convention website for more information. The general Chapter Housing closes on September 23, 2026, at 5p.m. or when the rooms are all booked.

Maryland's housing code passkey is: <https://book.passkey.com/go/StateMD26>

The last day to book rooms in the housing block is September 2nd.

Maryland has our housing block this year at the Holiday Inn and Home2 Suites, Indianapolis Airport. Our room block includes rooms with a check-in Tuesday 10/20/26 and a check-out Saturday 10/24/26. Rooms in the housing block are not available on Monday or Saturday nights, so plan your travel accordingly. The rooms are located:

Holiday Inn Indianapolis Airport:

King Bed @ \$187/night plus tax for 1-2 people and a total cost of approximately \$220.00/night

2 Standard Queen beds @ \$187/night plus tax for 1-4 people plus for a total cost of \$220.00/night

There is a restaurant, but no breakfast included.

Home2 Suites, Indianapolis Airport

King Studio Suite with sleeper sofa-\$189/night plus tax, approximately \$225.00 for 1-4 guests

2 Queen Studio suite with sleeper sofa-\$189/night plus tax, approximately \$225.00 for 1-6 guests

Hot breakfast is included

You will need a credit card to book the rooms directly with the hotel. Rooms can be dropped without a fee by September 23rd. Rooms dropped after September 23rd will incur a one-night lodging fee.

*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.



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Special Needs accommodations for students in competitive events were due to National FFA by no later than September 1st. All CDE materials must be submitted online by September 1st 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. One starting on the Eastern Shore and one starting in Frederick County. They will be provided by Atlantic Coast Charters. The cost to ride the bus will be **\$275/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 September 15, 2026. 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**

Early Bird Registration Rate

\$95 per person-Early bird registration opens at 6 p.m. EDT on Wednesday, Sept. 9 and ends at 7:59 p.m. EDT on Wednesday, Sept. 30.

Standard Registration Rate

\$115 per person-Onsite registration rates will begin at 12 a.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 20.

Onsite Registration Rate

\$120 per person-Onsite registration rates will begin at 12 a.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 20.



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Use the National FFA Convention portal to register students, chaperones and yourself for the convention. This includes participation in CDE, tickets for special entertainment, career success 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.

Questions? Please feel free to contact me at tshank@maefonline.com or 301-491-5686.