



NATIONAL  
FFA ORGANIZATION

Ben Meyer, State Relations Specialist

## State Relations Team (SRT) Summer Update 2020

All information is subject to change. Up-to-date information for most items is on [www.ffa.org](http://www.ffa.org).

Central & Western Regions

June, 2020

### NATIONAL FFA CONVENTION

**Plans for the Convention will be announced by July 15 after meeting with the National FFA Board of Directors**

#### *CDEs and LDEs*

#### **Individual Challenge Events Replace National Level CDEs and LDEs for 2020**

This fall, the National FFA Organization will offer individual experiences and challenges focused on career and leadership skills for all FFA members in place of all traditional national-level career and leadership development events (CDEs/LDEs) previously scheduled for the 2020 National FFA Convention & Expo. The changes are in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

National FFA will also use the traditional awards process during the 2020 National FFA Convention & Expo to recognize all individuals and teams declared for national CDE and LDE competition this fall despite being unable to compete.

National-level CDEs and LDEs will return at the 2021 National FFA Convention & Expo. Please contact Christine White ([cwhite@ffa.org](mailto:cwhite@ffa.org)) with any questions.

#### *Housing*

To help attendees and local hotel partners, the opening of all housing reservations for the 2020 National FFA Convention & Expo is now delayed until Wednesday, July 15. The no-penalty cancellation date for housing reservations will remain Wednesday, Aug. 19.

#### *Agriscience Fair*

Reminders:

- Applications are due Aug. 3 for 2020 ONLY.
- Ten national finalists will be named in each category/division.
- Displays may not have anything affixed to them including, but not limited to, tabs, pop-up images, foam core title pages, etc.
- Poster printing will be available for on-site pick up as in years past.
- General convention orientation will be available in August. Orientation packets for national finalists will be emailed after results are released

### NATIONAL FFA CONVENTION – Cont.

#### *National Chapter*

Reminders:

- Applications are due Aug. 3 for 2020 ONLY.
- For national finalists, there is no minimum slide number for presentations.
- The National Chapter POA Resource and Recognition Guide is available on FFA.org under National Chapter Resources  
<https://ffa.box.com/s/dqc2g9hr8xcjx7wcf1icpr4hakapur8f>.

#### *Honorary Degrees*

- Nominations for honorary awards are due July 15 for 2020 ONLY.
- Guidelines are available on FFA.org.
- Fill out application at:  
<https://apps.ffa.org/HonoraryDegree/>

#### *Judging Opportunities*

The National FFA Organization is seeking individuals interested in serving as judges of state and national Agriscience Fair, National Chapter, Proficiency, Star Awards, SAE Grants and CDE/LDEs. Opportunities to serve occur multiple times throughout the year and include both online and onsite judging opportunities.

This link is only to express your interest in serving as a judge. No commitment is being made and you are NOT registering for a judging opportunity at this time.

Please Note:

Online judge training materials will be available soon for each type of application.

Individuals need to have graduated at least five years previously from high school to serve.

If you previously received notification about judging opportunities, we still ask you complete the form.

<https://www.ffa.org/ffa-event-judging/>

#### **PRESENT A WORKSHOP TO TEACHERS OR STUDENTS**

We are selecting presenters to deliver workshops at the [93rd National FFA Convention & Expo](#). Workshop presenters can either present to students and/or teachers.

Submitted workshop applications are selected based on the quality of content, and we're open to unique workshop topics.

Apply today before the application closes **June 15**. [Click here](#) to learn more.



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## FFA MEMBERSHIP

### *Membership Year Reminder*

- The 2019-20 membership year ends on July 31, 2020
- The 2020-2021 membership year begins on August 1, 2020
- Add members to your 19-20 roster up through July 31.

## Shop FFA

- The latest version of the Official Manual will be available for purchase in June. Visit [ShopFFA.org](http://ShopFFA.org) for details.
- The NEW Annual FFA Tee is now available. The 2020-21 "For the Future, For All" <https://ShopFFA.org/item/TEE20/2020-2021-ANNUAL-TEE/>

If you need assistance placing award orders, our customer service staff stands ready to assist you. Please call 888-332-2668 or email [orders@FFA.org](mailto:orders@FFA.org).

## Financial Assistance

### *FFA COVID-19 Chapter Assistance Program*

FFA chapters faced with loss of revenue due to the pandemic are eligible for the FFA COVID-19 Chapter Assistance Program. The program requires an application and offers up to \$2,000 in one-time financial assistance per chapter to offset pandemic-related losses. **Apply by June 12.** Financial assistance will be provided based upon funding availability and demonstrated need.

Funding for the FFA COVID-19 Chapter Assistance Program is provided by Cargill.

Apply at: <https://nffa-applications.smapply.io/>

### *Living to Serve Yearlong Grant*

Help your FFA chapters start the new school year off with purpose and funding up to \$3,000 to support your chapter's service-learning efforts. Middle and high school FFA chapters may apply for funding to support yearlong service-learning projects that address authentic community needs. [Access the Application](#) and apply on or before **June 15**. Email any questions to [LTS@FFA.org](mailto:LTS@FFA.org).

## Alumni News

### *Remote Development Conferences*

In order to offer our FFA advisors, staff, alumni and supporters an opportunity for professional development and idea sharing, National FFA Alumni and Supporters will offer interactive Remote Development Conferences through Zoom at three different times this summer. There will be one-hour sessions at 3 p.m. EDT June 8-12 and at 11 a.m. EDT July 6-10. There will also be a Saturday option on August 15 with sessions running, with breaks in between, from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. EDT. Conference agendas and Zoom information can be found at [FFA.org/gotordc](http://FFA.org/gotordc).

### *FFA Alumni and Supporters Grants*

- There is one remaining deadline for 2020 FFA Alumni and Supporter grant applications: Sept. 1.
- Available grants include \$500 for starting and improving alumni and supporter chapters, \$1,000 grants for alumni and student members to partner together on projects or events, and \$5,000 grants to help pay for student affiliation fees, plant science-based projects or other agriculture program materials.
- These funds can be especially important for chapters that have missed out on their normal spring fundraisers. Grant applications can be found at [FFA.org/alumnigrants](http://FFA.org/alumnigrants) and submitted to [alumni@FFA.org](mailto:alumni@FFA.org).

### *FFA Alumni and Supporters Awards*

Updated award applications for Outstanding Achievement, Chapter and State awards are available at [www.ffa.org/alumniawards](http://www.ffa.org/alumniawards) and should be submitted to [alumni@ffa.org](mailto:alumni@ffa.org) by July 1.

### *Educational Enrichment Program*

With the FFA Educational Enrichment Program ([www.Pearson.com/FFA](http://www.Pearson.com/FFA)), FFA student and alumni members can utilize a \$300 value college planning session for free and access to discounted online courses transferable to over 1,000 colleges and universities.

### *Forever Blue Network*

The FFA Forever Blue Network is an official professional networking and personal development platform for FFA members, advisors, alumni and supporters. Visit <https://foreverbluenetwork.org> to join the Forever Blue Network and help find/post business opportunities, start mentorships, find/post events and more.



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## National Chapter Guide

### *New National Chapter Awards Program of Activities Guide Released*

The national chapter team has published the latest [National Chapter Awards Program of Activities Guide](#). This guide highlights the 2019 National Chapter Awards finalists and winners and can also be utilized by teachers across the nation in developing a quality chapter program of activities or annual plan. This guide is interactive and is no longer available in a printed format.

New to this year's guide are the interactive POA forms found in the appendix. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to program staff at [nationalchapter@ffa.org](mailto:nationalchapter@ffa.org).

## Teacher Resources

### EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES DOCUMENT

Several resources exist in this section for online or extended learning. We've [established a table of contents document](#) with a description of some of the most popular and new resources found in Educator Resources, including an easy reference for using resources online or offline.

### OWL CHAT

[Owl Chat](#) webinars have been implemented to bring ideas to educators. Topics covered: engaging officers, officer selection/elections, officer retreats, virtual banquets, Minecraft education, service learning, service-learning SAE, celebrating seniors and preparing for competitive events.

### STUDENT ACTIVITY SHEETS

In this time of distance learning, National FFA continues to look for ways to make our resources easier to use. We have separated the student activity sheets and added direct links to the lesson plans for the following resources:

- Lessons: [SAE Video Lessons](#); [Retiring Address Lessons](#)
- Implementation Guides: [AgExplorer](#); [Value Chain](#)
- Choice Boards: [SAE Video](#); [FFA Fundamentals](#); [FFA.org Scavenger Hunt](#); [National FFA Convention & Expo](#); [New Horizons Teaching Guides](#)

### GENERIC ACTIVITY SHEETS

Looking for an activity sheet that can accompany any SAE video, FFA Blue365 video, *FFA New Horizons* article, keynote/retiring address or current event? Check out the [generic activity sheets folder](#).

## Teacher Resources – Cont.

### SAE RESOURCES GUIDE

This guide is designed to help teachers and advisors incorporate supervised agricultural experiences (SAEs) into their courses in the classroom and at a distance. ([Word](#)) ([PDF](#))

### SAE VIDEO LESSONS

The lessons cover supervised agricultural experiences on vermicomposting, backyard chickens, clams, school recycling and more. All lessons have accompanying worksheets and can be accessed [here](#).

### COLLABORATION WITH MINECRAFT EDUCATION

[Minecraft Education Edition](#) is a game-based learning platform that builds STEM skills, unleashes creativity and engages students in collaboration and problem-solving. Click the links and check out the agriculture-based [lessons](#) to enhance learning and engagement in an e-learning space.

### SUSTAINABILITY IN AGRICULTURE LESSON SERIES SPONSORED BY VALENT

Sustainability in agriculture is a critical topic for today's youth to understand. This new [lesson series](#), sponsored by Valent USA, teaches students how sustainability in agriculture is infused within all parts of the Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources (AFNR) Value Chain.

### CDE, LDE AND AGRISCIENCE RESEARCH CHOICE BOARD

Looking for a turn-key way to share CDEs, LDEs and agriscience research with all your students? Check out this new resource that will allow students to explore all the opportunities available through [CDEs, LDEs and agriscience research](#).

### TIPS AND TRICKS FOR NATIONAL FFA RESOURCES AT A DISTANCE

Check out these [tips and tricks](#) to make National FFA educator resources more usable at a distance. Pick and choose the resources that match your distance learning needs

### FFA STUDENT HANDBOOK

The [student handbook](#) has been posted and made available for free for use during remote learning.

*Report courtesy of Ben Meyer  
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