

Kentucky FFA State Convention Guide for Advisors

Agriscience Fair

The Kentucky FFA Agriscience Fair is held on the Wednesday of the State FFA Convention. Reports/applications must be submitted by May 1. Details on registration and submission will be shared with all teachers in late March/early April.

Projects are set up on the morning of the Agriscience Fair and members are expected to be present to complete a presentation to judges.

Results of the Agriscience Fair are announced at 1:00 p.m. The first place team/individual in each area/division are recognized on stage during a Convention General Session.

Checks

The Kentucky FFA Foundation provides premiums for FFA members and chapters who compete in various events during the Convention. Checks are available for pickup by advisors following the fourth Convention session on Wednesday evening.

Convention App

A State FFA Convention app is available for Apple and android devices. The app includes a Convention schedule, venue maps, and various other information related to the Convention. The app also includes push notifications for timely updates during the event.

Courtesy Corps

Chapters are able to volunteer members to serve in the Convention Courtesy Corps. These members assist with various events and functions during the Convention. Example roles include door keepers for CDEs, assistants for registration, and greeters for Convention events.

A chapter may volunteer up to six members to assist with Courtesy Corps. These members can be any grade level but should have the maturity to fulfill their assignment.

Courtesy Corps assignments are emailed to advisors in late May.

Courtesy Corps members are to check in at Convention headquarters at the beginning of their assignment and receive a pin at the conclusion of their service.

Deadlines

The following deadlines relate to State FFA Convention events.

April 1-Registration for Agricultural Communications, Agricultural Issues Forum, Farm Business Management, Food Science, Marketing Plan, and Milk Quality and Products

May 1- Agriscience Fair Registration and Online Submission of Applications and Reports

May 10- Hotel Reservations
Convention Registration Forms
Courtesy Corps Registration

May 15- Submissions
Ag Issues Portfolio
Marketing Plans

Dress Code

Members are expected to be in official dress during general sessions, competitive events, and leadership workshops.

Casual dress is for travel and recreational activities including the dance. Casual dress must be in accordance with the school dress code.

Emergency Response Plan

Kentucky FFA has worked with the Convention venues to develop an emergency response plan for Convention facilities and events.

In the event of a life threatening emergency, the first response should be to dial 911 and clearly state the emergency, location, and other known details. If possible hotel/venue staff should be notified so that they can assist emergency responders. If an attendee has a medical or other issue that is not life threatening, please notify hotel/venue staff as soon as possible.

State Staff should be notified of medical, safety, and health issues as soon as possible after they occur.

Detailed emergency plans for convention venues are available [here](#).

Expectations for Behavior

FFA members in attendance at the Convention are expected to abide by the [FFA Code of Ethics](#) and the [FFA Values Statements](#). Additionally, FFA members must abide by local school policies, hotel guidelines, and any rules or guidelines of the event venues.

The behavior, attitude, dress, and language of members must reflect positively on the students, their school, and the FFA as a whole.

Behavior issues should be reported to FFA headquarters immediately with as much information as possible including the nature of the behavior issue, the location, and chapter/names of members involved.

Members found to be in violation of the above may be disqualified from participation in Convention events and may forfeit recognition. Parents and/or local school officials may be contacted by state staff.

Expo

The State Convention Expo is sponsored by the Kentucky FFA Foundation and provides an opportunity for FFA members to connect with higher education institutions, agricultural groups, and potential employers. There is no charge for participation in the Expo.

The Expo will be open on Tuesday 9:00-3:00 p.m. and on Wednesday 8:30-1:00 p.m.

Food and Dining

A food court will be offered by the Central Bank Center on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday of Convention. The location and times will be published in mid-May.

[Click here](#) to view a list of all restaurants in Lexington.

Future Convention Dates

June 8-10, 2027

June 6-8, 2028

June 5-7, 2029

General Sessions

The State FFA Convention includes five general sessions. Sessions include the presentation of awards, motivational speakers, speeches and reports from State FFA Officers, and greetings from various friends of FFA.

A schedule of events and awards presentations for each session is released by May 1 of each year.

Pre-session activities begin 30 minutes prior to the beginning of each session. Members are encouraged to be in their seats early to take part in these activities.

Guest Attendance/Registration

Parents, administrators, and other special guests are encouraged to attend the State FFA Convention. There is no charge for registration for these individuals, however they do need to register upon arrival. Guest registration is available outside the Convention Hall 30 minutes prior to each general session.

Hotel Reservations

The following hotels are used for State FFA Convention.

- Hyatt Regency- connected to the Central Bank Center
- Hilton Downtown- connected by pedway to Hyatt and Central Bank Center
- Marriott Downtown- two blocks from Central Bank Center
- Clarion Hotel North- five minute drive from Central Bank Center
- Campbell House- five minute drive from Central Bank Center

Hotel reservations open on March 15 each year. The Executive Secretary sends hotel information in early March with rates, contact information, etc. Each hotel has different requirements related to billing and payment so advisors should read the information carefully and discuss with the school bookkeeper if needed.

Hotels expect a rooming list to be submitted with reservations. This can be revised as needed.

It is recommended that advisors book hotel rooms early as hotels fill up quickly. Some rooms come available in early May as chapters cancel unneeded rooms.

The deadline for hotel reservations is May 10.

Leadership Workshops

Leadership Workshops are available for members on Tuesday and Wednesday of Convention. Seating in workshops is first come first served and is limited by room size. There is no charge for participation in workshops.

A schedule of workshops with topics and presenters is made available in late May.

Lost and Found

Lost and found will be located in the Convention Headquarters in Room 9 of the Central Bank Center.

Middle School Convention

A special middle school registration rate is available for middle school chapters who are attending the Convention on Monday and Tuesday only.

Middle School competitive events are held on Monday of Convention. Middle School awards are presented at the first Convention session on Tuesday afternoon.

Official Dress

FFA members are expected to wear official dress as outlined in the FFA Manual during competitive events, general sessions, and leadership workshops.

Parking

Parking is available as follows:

- Hyatt- complimentary parking in the High Street lot for hotel guests
- Hilton- complimentary parking in the attached hotel parking garage for hotel guests
- Marriott- complimentary parking in the attached hotel parking garage for hotel guests
- Non-hotel guests- parking is available in the High Street parking lot at an hourly or daily rate.
- Bus parking is in the High Street Parking Lot. A link to purchase bus parking passes will be shared with teachers in late March.

Registration

Pre-registration for the State FFA Convention opens in March and remains open through May 15. FFA advisors will submit registration for all members and advisors from their chapter. Payment may be sent with registration or made onsite. Pre-registered chapters should pick up Convention materials at the Convention registration desk upon arrival.

On-site registration is available for chapters that do not wish to pre-register. Chapters who wish to register on-site are encouraged to complete registration forms prior to arrival and must be prepared to pay registration fees upon arrival.

There is no charge for parents, chaperones, or special guests.

Requests for refunds of pre-registered members must be made by emailing the Executive Secretary by May 20.

Safety

The safety of FFA members during the State Convention is a primary concern for the Kentucky FFA Association.

FFA advisors are asked to review safety considerations with members prior to traveling. These considerations should include but not be limited to:

- Crossing the street safely
- Traveling in groups when outside the hotel or convention center
- Emergency procedures
- Keeping hotel door closed and locked at all times
- Interactions with members of the general public outside the Convention venues

Schedule of Competitive Events

A specific schedule of contests will be published in mid to late May. Below is a general schedule of competitive events.

- Monday
 - 9:00 a.m.- Food Science CDE
 - 10:00- Agricultural Communications CDE
 - 11:00 p.m.- Middle School Competitive Events
 - 2:00 p.m.- Milk Quality and Products CDE
- Tuesday
 - 10:00 a.m.- Parliamentary Procedure Exam
 - 11:00 a.m.- Prepared Public Speaking, Extemporaneous Speaking, Creed Speaking, Conduct of Chapter Meetings, Agriculture Public Speaking, Farm Business Management CDE, AIC, Talent
 - 2:00 p.m.- Record Keeping CDE

- Wednesday
 - 8:30 a.m.- Agriscience Fair and Employment Skills LDE
 - 9:30 a.m.- High School Quiz Bowl
 - 11:00 a.m.- Agricultural Sales CDE
 - 11:30 a.m.- Quiz Contest
 - 1:00 p.m.- Star Interviews, Agricultural Issues Forum, Marketing Plan CDE

Schedule of Events

A draft schedule of events will be published in mid-April.

Special Events

Special recreational events are planned for the Convention. These events are open to all FFA members in attendance at no additional charge. Casual dress is acceptable for both events but advisors will ensure that attire meets the requirements of school dress code.

- Tuesday evening- Kentucky FFA's Got Talent will highlight the special talents of various FFA members and serve as the State Talent finals.
- Wednesday evening- FFA Convention Dance. An arm band (provided at registration) will be required for entry.

Supervision

FFA members in attendance at the Convention must be supervised by advisors and/or school approved chaperones at all times. School policies relating to supervision and student behavior will be followed.

Advisors and chaperones may not be alone with individual students. In cases where it is necessary for an advisor or chaperone to meet one on one with a student, this must be done in a publicly visible location.

Advisors must follow school policy related to student hotel room assignments.

Further guidelines for student supervision are available in the Kentucky FFA [Abuse Prevention Manual](#).

Volunteering To Assist

FFA advisors are strongly encouraged to volunteer to assist with Career and Leadership Development Events during the Convention. This is a great opportunity for advisors to learn more about events and to help them better prepare students in the future.

Teacher volunteer sign up information will be shared with all teachers in late March/early April. Advisors will be notified of assignments in mid-May.