

North Carolina FFA Association

Career and Leadership Development Event and Award Policies

This document establishes policies for the organization and implementation of career and leadership development events as well as award programs for the North Carolina FFA Association. It is the responsibility of teachers, state staff, and event superintendents to be familiar with these policies and follow them for all events.

Career and Leadership Development Events

Career and leadership developments can be team or individual events. These events have eligibility requirements based on rules and guidelines specific to each event. Violations can result in disqualification.

The following are recognized as official events of the North Carolina FFA Association.

- a. Agricultural Communications Career Development Event
- b. Agricultural Issues Forum Leadership Development Event
- c. Agricultural Mechanics Career Development Event
- d. Agricultural Sales Career Development Event
- e. Agricultural Sales Junior Career Development Event
- f. Agricultural Tools and Materials Career Development Event
- g. Agronomy Career Development Event
- h. FFA Creed Speaking Leadership Development Event
- i. Dairy Cattle Evaluation Career Development Event
- j. Dairy Cattle Evaluation Junior Career Development Event
- k. Dairy Foods Career Development Event
- l. Dairy Cattle Handlers Activity
- m. Envirothon
- n. Extemporaneous Public Speaking Leadership Development Event
- o. Farm Business Management Career Development Event
- p. Farm Business Management Junior Career Development Event
- q. Food Science and Technology Career Development Event
- r. Floriculture Career Development Event
- s. Forestry Career Development Event
- t. Horse Evaluation Career Development Event
- u. Horse Evaluation Junior Career Development Event
- v. Hunter Safety
- w. Introduction to Horticulture Career Development Event
- x. Job Interview Leadership Development Event
- y. Land Judging Career Development Event
- z. Land Judging Junior Career Development Event
- aa. Livestock Evaluation Career Development Event
- bb. Livestock Evaluation Junior Career Development Event
- cc. Marketing Plan Career Development Event
- dd. Meats Evaluation Career Development Event
- ee. Middle Grades Ritual and Parliamentary Procedure Leadership Development Event
- ff. Middle Grades Prepared Public Speaking Leadership Development Event

- gg. Middle Grades Exploring Biotechnology Career Development Event
- hh. Middle Grades Exploring Biotechnology Quiz Bowl
- ii. Nursery/Landscape Career Development Event
- jj. Poultry Evaluation Career Development Event
- kk. Poultry Evaluation Junior Career Development Event
- ll. Prepared Public Speaking Leadership Development Event
- mm. Ritual and Parliamentary Procedure Leadership Development Event
- nn. Tractor Driving Career Development Event
- oo. Truck Driving Career Development Event
- pp. Veterinary Science Career Development Event

1. Registration

- a. Chapters must register individuals/teams by the established deadlines. Those submitting registration past the deadline dates will be assessed a \$10.00 per student fee late penalty.
- b. Registration can only be submitted by an FFA Advisor and should include the advisor's email address and cell phone number. Registrations submitted via Judging Card.com may not provide for this information to be submitted.
- c. Signed waivers are required for all students participating in any career or leadership development event. The waiver must be signed by the student and their respective parents/guardians.

2. Special Accommodations

- a. In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, the North Carolina FFA Association will honor requests for reasonable accommodations made by individuals with disabilities. Please direct accommodation requests through the CDE/LDE Accommodation Request [Form](#). If the accommodation can be made for all and/or doesn't provide an unfair advantage, then every effort will be made to provide the accommodation. Requests can be accommodated more effectively if notice is provided at least 10 days before the event.
- b. If an accommodation is selected from the list below, the participant will be required to fill out the Reasonable ADA and/or Special Request for Accommodation form. Upon completion of the form, a FFA staff member will contact the participant to gather additional information and/or discuss the reasonable accommodation(s) or assistance being requested.
 - Mobility
 - Vision
 - Hearing
 - Other
- c. These medical conditions, diagnosed by a recognized medical professional, will impact a students' ability to participate in activities offered during this North Carolina FFA event. These may or may not require someone to assist the participant during the event.
- d. At no time will a student participating in a North Carolina FFA event be responsible for the care or observation of another student. If a student requires care or observation, an adult must register to attend with the student at their cost.
- e. Short-term, temporary conditions such as surgery recovery or injury recovery, i.e., limbs in a cast due to fractures, crutches, etc., are not covered by the Americans with Disabilities Act. Participants are responsible for all assistance and equipment necessary to participate in the activities during the North Carolina FFA event, including but not limited to personal assistants, wheelchairs, crutches.

3. Dress Code Guidelines

- a. The North Carolina FFA Association strives to promote a positive image at all Official FFA Events. The dress code policy was established to address the issue of appropriate attire at all official FFA events. Members should adhere to this policy for all events. A ten percent reduction will be applied to all individual scores from a chapter if a participant from that chapter violates the dress code during a career or leadership development event.
- b. **Events not requiring FFA Official Dress:** Participants should wear long pants, an appropriate shirt with a collar or an appropriate high school or FFA t-shirt.
- c. **Events requiring FFA Official Dress.** Official Dress for an FFA member includes:
 - An official FFA jacket zipped to the top.
 - Black slacks and black socks/nylons or black skirt and black nylons.
 - White collared blouse or white collared shirt.
 - Official FFA tie or official FFA scarf.
 - Black dress shoes with closed heel and toe.
 - Note: Official garb of recognized religions may be worn with Official Dress.

4. Eligibility

- a. Events are open to all FFA chapters and FFA members in good standing.
- b. Members winning a previous state event in a specific career or leadership development event or that have participated in a previous national event in that area are ineligible.
- c. FFA Members may not participate in a career development event that leads to a state level event after July 1 following their high school/early college graduation.
- d. FFA members may not compete in the Agricultural Tools and Materials Career Development Event and the FFA Creed Speaking Leadership Development Event more than once.
- e. Participation in more than one FFA CDE/LDE is permitted as long as events are not being held concurrently and no special provisions are required to facilitate participation. The exceptions to that include: parliamentary procedure and public speaking and parliamentary procedure and Creed speaking which are held concurrently will allow dual participation and special provisions for flighting.

5. Middle School Events

- a. In junior division state-level FFA career and leadership development events, the top three middle school teams/individuals will be recognized.
- b. If a junior division state-level career and leadership development event exists, the top three middle school teams will not be recognized in the senior division.
- c. If a junior division state-level career and leadership development event does not exist, the top three middle school teams will be recognized in the senior division.
- d. Advisors should clearly register as a middle school team/individual in order for the appropriate recognition to occur.
- e. The Truck Safety & Skills career development event does not offer middle school recognition due to age requirements to participate in this event.

6. Electronic Devices

- a. The use or possession of cellular phones, Personal Digital Assistants (PDA's) or any other mobile electronic communication device is prohibited during any state-level career or leadership development event.
- b. Any violation of this rule by any team member will result in total team disqualification.

7. Cheating

- a. Cheating during a career or leadership development event will not be tolerated.
- b. Any member found cheating in any state-level career or leadership development event will result in total team disqualification for that event.

8. Calculators

- a. Many events require the use of calculators. Calculators MUST BE ONLY basic five function (add, subtract, multiply, divide, and square root only) calculators.
- b. Unless notified calculators will be provided.
- c. Scientific calculators and other programmable calculators such as builder's calculators are not allowed in events.
- d. The possession of a programmable calculator or other non-basic calculator by any team member shall result in a total team disqualification.

9. Event Guidelines

- a. Rules and guidelines for all career and leadership development events are located on the North Carolina FFA website.
- b. Members and advisors should be familiar with these documents as they serve as the basis for each career and leadership development event.
- c. Event superintendents should be familiar with guidelines and have a copy on site at events.

10. Reporting Event Results

- a. Career and leadership development events are scored using a variety of scanning and electronic technology.
- b. Event results are not considered final until 24 hours after posting online.

11. Appeals Process

- a. Appeals can only be filed if there is a scoring error. Scores, placings, and rulings by event judges cannot be appealed.
- b. A written appeal must be submitted in writing to the event superintendent and the State FFA Coordinator within two calendar days after the announcement of the results.
- c. The State FFA Coordinator will review the written appeal with the event superintendent, the State FFA Advisor and any other relevant event staff. The state staff will accept or deny the appeal.
- d. The state staff's recommendation will be shared with the North Carolina FFA Board of Directors for further input if necessary.
- e. Any ruling on the appeal provided by the state staff and the North Carolina FFA Board of Directors will be considered final.

12. Number of Participants in State Events

The number of participants in all state-level career and leadership development events are aligned to the number of participants in national-level career and leadership development events.

13. Qualification for State Events

Each region may qualify a designated number of teams to compete in state-level career and leadership development events based on the following schedule:

- a. Less than ten (10) teams competing in any CDE/LDE – Three (3) teams are allowed to advance to state competition.
- b. Ten (10) to thirteen (13) teams competing in any CDE/LDE – Four (4) teams are allowed to advance to state competition.
- c. Fourteen (14) to seventeen (17) teams competing in any CDE/LDE – Five (5) teams are allowed to advance to state competition.
- d. Eighteen (18) teams or more competing in any CDE/LDE – Six (6) teams are allowed to advance to state competition.
- e. The top three individuals from each regional CDE/LDE is eligible to compete in the state level CDE/LDE as an individual for individual high scoring honors.

14. State-Winning Teams Not Participating the National Event

- a. Chapters of state winning CDEs/LDEs that are eligible to participate in national level CDEs/LDEs should contact the State FFA Coordinator of their intention to not compete in the event by September 1 of the year of competition.
- b. Teams that do not compete in national CDEs/LDEs will be required to pay their cash award back to the NC FFA Foundation.
- c. Chapters that do not notify the State FFA Coordinator prior to the national CDE event will be ineligible for competition in that CDE at any level for one year unless approved by the FFA Board of Directors.

15. Envirothon

- a. The North Carolina Envirothon is used to determine the state winner of the Environmental and Natural Resources Career Development Event.
- b. The state Envirothon team scores are made up of five members but only four are allowed to compete in the National FFA Event. Since 4 out of 5 members of a state qualifying team can compete in the National Event, the one member from the team representing North Carolina, that does not compete in the national event will still be eligible to compete in the state event again.

16. State-Level CDEs/LDEs With Qualifying Events

The following career and leadership development events are held at federation and/or regional levels prior to state competition:

- a. Agricultural Mechanics Career Development Event
- b. Agricultural Tools and Materials Career Development Event
- c. FFA Creed Speaking Leadership Development Event
- d. Envirothon
- e. Extemporaneous Public Speaking Leadership Development Event
- f. Floriculture Career Development Event
- g. Forestry Career Development Event
- h. Hunter Safety
- i. Introduction to Horticulture Career Development Event
- j. Livestock Evaluation Career Development Event

- k. Livestock Evaluation Junior Career Development Event
- l. Nursery/Landscape Career Development Event
- m. Prepared Public Speaking Leadership Development Event
- n. Ritual and Parliamentary Procedure Leadership Development Event
- o. Tractor Driving Career Development Event
- p. Truck Driving Career Development Event

17. State-Level Only CDEs/LDEs

The following career and leadership development events compete at the state level only and do not have qualifying federation or regional competitions:

- a. Agricultural Communications Career Development Event
- b. Agricultural Issues Forum Leadership Development Event
- c. Agricultural Sales Career Development Event
- d. Agricultural Sales Junior Career Development Event
- e. Agriscience Fair
- f. Agronomy Career Development Event
- g. Dairy Cattle Evaluation Career Development Event
- h. Dairy Cattle Evaluation Junior Career Development Event
- i. Dairy Handlers Career Development Event
- j. Farm Business Management Career Development Event
- k. Farm Business Management Junior Career Development Event
- l. Food Science and Technology Career Development Event
- m. Horse Evaluation Career Development Event
- n. Horse Evaluation Junior Career Development Event
- o. Job Interview Leadership Development Event
- p. Land Judging Career Development Event
- q. Marketing Plan Career Development Event
- r. Meats Evaluation Career Development Event
- s. Middle Grades Ritual and Parliamentary Procedure Leadership Development Event
- t. Middle Grades Prepared Public Speaking Leadership Development Event
- u. Middle Grades Exploring Biotechnology Career Development Event
- v. Middle Grades Exploring Biotechnology Quiz Bowl
- w. Milk Quality and Products Career Development Event
- x. Poultry Evaluation Career Development Event
- y. Poultry Evaluation Junior Career Development Event
- z. Veterinary Science Career Development Event

Award and Recognition Programs

The North Carolina FFA Association recognizes student and chapter success through a variety of award and recognition programs. These awards have eligibility requirements based on rules and guidelines specific to each award. Violations can result in disqualification.

The following are recognized as award and recognition programs of the North Carolina FFA Association.

- a. Agriscience Fair
- b. National Chapter Award
- c. Proficiency Awards
- d. State and National Scholarships
- e. FFA Degrees
- f. State and American Star Awards
- g. Honorary Degrees
- h. North Carolina FFA Lifetime Achievement Award
- i. North Carolina FFA Premier Partner Award
- j. National FFA VIP Award
- k. National FFA Distinguished Service Award

1. Agriscience Fair

- a. FFA chapters may send one application per division in the Agriscience Fair.
- b. State-winning applications may be edited after state judging prior to being sent to the national level.

2. National Chapter Award

- a. FFA chapters may only submit one National Chapter Award Application annually.
- b. FFA chapters may submit Form I of the National Chapter Award for consideration as a Superior National Chapter.
- c. FFA chapters may submit Form I and II of the National Chapter Award for consideration as a Gold, Silver, or Bronze National Chapter.
- d. Gold level applications may be edited after state judging prior to being sent to the national level.
- e. The North Carolina FFA Association will recognize the top three high school chapters that submit Forms I & II of the National Chapter Award.
- f. The North Carolina FFA Association will recognize the top three middle school chapters that submit Forms I & II of the National Chapter Award.

3. Proficiency Awards

- a. FFA chapters may send one application per proficiency award category each year.
- b. A student may submit proficiency award applications in multiple categories; however, a student may only win one proficiency award category annually.
- c. State-winning applications may be edited after state judging prior to being sent to the national level.

4. North Carolina FFA Association Scholarships

- a. Students may apply for multiple North Carolina FFA Association scholarships; however, a student may only win one scholarship annually.
- b. Guidelines and eligibility requirements are unique to each scholarship and will be administered accordingly.

5. FFA Degrees

- a. The North Carolina FFA Association recognizes all FFA degrees as established by the National FFA Constitution and Bylaws and the North Carolina FFA Association and Bylaws.
- b. The North Carolina FFA Association follows requirements for all FFA Degrees as established by the National FFA Constitution and Bylaws and the North Carolina FFA Association and Bylaws.
- c. The State FFA Degree awarded by the North Carolina FFA Association is named, "The Old North State Degree."

6. State Stars

- a. State Stars are open to all active FFA members who have completed two or more years of Agricultural Education and who are candidates for or have previously received the State FFA Degree.
- b. Each FFA chapter is entitled to submit one application in each star award area.
- c. Star applicants must be current-year state degree candidates or have not exceeded the requirements for the American FFA Degree.
- d. Where applicants are engaged in multiple types of agricultural experience programs, the work from which the most income was earned shall determine the category.
- e. Where applicants are engaged in multiple types of agricultural experience programs, the work from which the most income was earned shall determine the category. In either case, only bona fide agricultural work will qualify an applicant for these awards.
- f. **Star Farmer:** Outstanding achievement in a production agriculture SAE and active participation in the FFA is recognized with the State Star Farmer Award. Each year, the North Carolina FFA Association selects one member to receive the State Star Farmer Award.
- g. **Star Agribusiness:** Outstanding achievement in an entrepreneurial SAE and active participation in the FFA is recognized with the State Star Agribusiness Award. Each year, the North Carolina FFA Association selects one member to receive the State Star Agribusiness Award.
- h. **Star Placement:** Outstanding achievement in a placement SAE and active participation in the FFA is recognized with the State Star Placement Award. Each year, the North Carolina FFA Association selects one member to receive the State Star Placement Award.
- i. **Star Agriscience:** Outstanding achievement in an agriscience-based SAE (natural resources, research/ experimentation or science-based directed lab), and active participation in the FFA is recognized with the State Star in Agriscience Award. Each year, the North Carolina FFA Association selects one member to receive the State Star in Agriscience Award.

7. Honorary State FFA Degree

- a. The Honorary Degree Program is operated under the North Carolina FFA Association Constitution and Bylaws.
- b. The purpose of the honorary degree program is to recognize individuals who have rendered outstanding service to the North Carolina Agricultural Education/FFA Program.
- c. Individuals nominated must have provided exceptional service to agriculture and/or the agricultural education/FFA program on a state level. Nominations may be made by teachers/advisors, FFA members, members of the North Carolina FFA Association Board of Directors and state staff.
- d. The Honorary State FFA Degree is the highest honorary degree awarded by the North Carolina FFA Association and is presented at the annual State FFA Convention.
- e. The Honorary State FFA Degree will be awarded to a maximum of eight teachers of agricultural education (one per region) annually.
- f. The Honorary State FFA Degree will be awarded to a maximum of 16 non-teacher individuals from across North Carolina annually.