



Congratulations!

August 1, 2025 All times EDT.

Congratulations on representing your state at the upcoming Floriculture Career Development Event at the 98th National FFA Convention & Expo. This letter aims to provide information to assist you and make your preparations more efficient and productive.

We encourage you to use the [CDE/LDE webpage](#) to stay current and locate the event materials. Please review the [General Orientation](#) for essential details, materials, deadlines and assistance. Be sure to read through the handbook and event information sections.

Competition Schedule

We will host a virtual team orientation this year at [2 p.m. EDT on Wed., Oct. 15](#). This will be recorded and posted under the event orientation on the CDE/LDE Page. A Zoom invite will be emailed to the certified advisor. This will be recorded and posted on the CDE/LDE Page under event orientation. Before orientation, email questions to me at mriley@gaaged.org to ensure they are addressed and included in the recording.

The event will be held at the **West Pavilion** Building on the Indiana State Fairgrounds on Wednesday, Oct. 29. This is a new location from previous years. For timing, reference the attached schedule. Plan travel accordingly.

Event Details

Students will participate in eight (8) components, four (4) in the morning and four (4) in the afternoon. The morning rotation will include the General Knowledge/Problem Solving Exam, Team Activity, Floral Arrangement, and Determining Retail Pricing. The afternoon rotation will consist of Growing Procedures, Plant, Equipment, and Disorder ID, and two rotational practicums. This year's two rotational practicums will be media selling and greenhouse maintenance and management practices.

Material/Equipment Students Need to Provide

For this year's team activity, the committee asks each state to bring a non-perishable agricultural produce item(s) representing an agricultural product from your state. We ask that your item(s) must be smaller than a standard half ($\frac{1}{2}$) gallon milk carton and may include multiples of the same item or only one larger item. An example would be a single, large plastic strawberry or several smaller plastic strawberries (that would fit in a half ($\frac{1}{2}$) gallon milk carton). Another example would be a foam wedge of cheese or several smaller artificial cheese slices, boxes or wedges.

Please review the section of the handbook (page 7) regarding additional materials participants may bring to the CDE. This list has been updated from previous years. Participants are encouraged to bring a clean clipboard, free of notes, two sharpened No. 2 pencils, and a calculator (it should be battery-operated, non-programmable, and non-scientific (basic five functions only)). No other calculators can be used during the event.

Each student also needs their own set of floral tools; a list of suggested floral materials for each student is provided in the handbook. Teams cannot share tools because these are individual events, and team members are on different rotations and not in the same area during the design practicums. Contestants will not be allowed to bring any material into the competition area that could enhance their design's creativity, such as ribbon or decorative wire. A committee member will check student toolboxes/bags during team check-in; any unapproved items will be returned to the advisor before the start of the competition. **Due to safety and event security, FLORAL KNIVES are not required and should not be brought in or used during the event.**

Food and Beverage

Students will be released to secure their lunch. You may preorder box lunches from the fairgrounds using the attached [form](#). Once a list of food vendors is available, advisors will receive additional information with options.

Dress

An apron is allowed when floral arranging or any other activity where clothes might get stained. Students may remove their FFA jackets during competition; otherwise, Official Dress is highly recommended throughout the event. Students will be allowed to bring cell phones to the event, but they must be turned over to a committee member at the beginning of the event. Students can pick up their phones at the end of the competition.

Recognition

All teams and individuals will be recognized at the Awards Program, held in Rooms 126-128 of the Indiana Convention Center at 8 a.m. Thursday, Oct 30. Team participants, coaches, advisors, and family are welcome to attend. This ceremony will be streamed on FFA.org.

Final placings for the top four teams and top 10 individuals will be presented on stage during the Second General Session at 2 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 30, in Lucas Oil Stadium.

Good luck with your preparations. If you have questions, feel free to call, text, or email me.

Sincerely,

*Melissa Riley
Event Superintendent, Floriculture
478-973-4071 / mriley@gaaged.org*



FLORICULTURE CAREER DEVELOPMENT EVENT

2025 EVENT SCHEDULE

All times EDT. Schedule subject to change.

Date	Time	Event	Location
Wednesday, Oct. 15	2 p.m.	Team Orientation	Zoom
Wednesday, Oct. 29	7 a.m.	Drop/Add Deadline for team members	Log into Profile to change in certification
	8 a.m.	Team Check In	West Pavilion (ISF)
	8:30 – 11:30 a.m.	Team Activity, Written Exam/Problem Solving, Floral Arrangement, Retail Pricing	West Pavilion (ISF)
	Noon – 1 p.m.	Lunch on own	
	1 p.m.	Team Check In	West Pavilion (ISF)
	1:30 – 5 p.m.	Plant ID, Growing Procedures and Practicum Rotations	West Pavilion (ISF)
	5 p.m.	Event Review	West Pavilion (ISF)
Thursday, Oct. 30	8 a.m.	Awards Program	Rooms 101-103 (ICC)
	2 p.m.	Final Placings - Second General Session	Lucas Oil Stadium

Location Guide

- **Indiana State Fairgrounds (ISF):** 1202 E. 38th St., Indianapolis, IN 46205
- **Indiana Convention Center (ICC):** 100 S Capitol Ave, Indianapolis, IN 46225
- **Lucas Oil Stadium:** 500 S. Capitol Ave., Indianapolis, IN 46225



CAREER AND LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT EVENTS

2025 GENERAL INFORMATION

Revised: April 18, 2025

Congratulations! We're excited to welcome you to the National FFA Career and Leadership Development Events (CDEs/LDEs) as part of the 98th National FFA Convention & Expo. Information for this year's events is on the [CDE/LDE webpage](#). Go to the webpage now to subscribe to email notifications when updates occur.

COMMUNICATIONS

All communications will be sent to the email in the advisor's FFA.org profile. This email and the mobile number provided are the Advisor's Contact Information. Please add cde@ffa.org to your allowlist to receive important updates. You can also specify a second contact for additional communications. If the advisor's email changes after certification, update it in Certification or email cde@ffa.org with the state, event, and new advisor details.

EVENT HANDBOOKS

Each event will adhere to the rules and procedures outlined in its handbook. Any changes can be found in the Detailed Summary of CDE/LDE Handbook Updates. The current handbooks were posted on the webpage in Jan. 2025 and include all updated formats, lists, and rubrics. Participants should review the event components thoroughly before competing.

CERTIFICATION

All CDE and LDE teams must be certified by Tuesday, Sept. 2. You must certify all team members by the certification deadline. Most certifications may be amended prior to the competition dates. The [How to Certify a Team or Member \(PDF\)](#) contains step-by-step instructions.

TEAM MEMBER CHANGES

Team members can be added or removed from the certified list in Profile on FFA.org until one hour before the first event activity begins. The deadline will be noted in the Event Schedule.

EVENT UPLOADS

Four events—*Agricultural Issues, Employment Skills, Marketing Plan, and Prepared Public Speaking*—require document uploads, including an Authenticity Statement. Use these directions to [Upload a PDF for a CDE/LDE](#). See each event's superintendent letter for further details.

SCHEDULE CONFLICTS

Members may only participate in one CDE/LDE each year. Members participating in multiple award programs may have a scheduling conflict. We encourage students to choose a competitive event or interview over an awards ceremony. If the student or team cannot attend the main stage award presentation, we request a stand-in be sent for the specified session.

ACCOMMODATION REQUESTS

Students needing accommodations or with allergies affecting event participation or provided snacks/meals must complete a [request form](#) at least 30 days in advance (by Sept. 15). This form will remain confidential, and National FFA staff will contact the advisor after receiving the request.

PRACTICE MATERIALS

Sample scan sheets, practicums, and written exams from previous years can be found under "Event Preparation" on the [CDE/LDE webpage](#).

ORIENTATION MEETINGS

All advisors and available team members should attend and review the virtual orientation meetings. Orientation recordings will be posted under "Event Orientation" on the CDE/LDE webpage. The orientation packet contains meeting details and a link to the meetings.

CONVENTION REGISTRATION

[Convention registration](#) is required to compete in the Career and Leadership Development Events, which includes a waiver.

SEE SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING

We want to hear from you if you notice inappropriate behavior at an FFA event. You will be directed to a third party to file the report, but all reports will be sent to National FFA. If you [see something, say something](#).

INDIANA STATE FAIRGROUNDS SHUTTLES

Courtesy shuttles between the Indiana Convention Center and the Indiana State Fairgrounds ([map](#)) are available for all registered CDE participants. Shuttles depart approximately every 15 minutes. Allow 20 minutes for one-way travel. Shuttles will run from 6 a.m. to the end of your event on Wednesday and Thursday. Check the convention website for details.

THANKING OUR PARTNERS

Our partners' financial commitment is vital to this program's continued success. Contact information is on the [CDE/LDE webpage](#), allowing you to express your appreciation for their support.

CDE/LDE FINALS — INDIANA CONVENTION CENTER

See the top CDE/LDE students compete in their finals. Live streaming is available on [FFA.org](#).

Event	Date	Time (EDT)	Room
Creed Speaking	Wed., Oct. 29	6 -6:30 p.m.	500 Ballroom
Extemporaneous Public Speaking	Thurs., Oct. 30	9:30 -11 a.m.	500 Ballroom
Prepared Public Speaking	Thurs., Oct. 30	Noon-1:30 p.m.	500 Ballroom
Agricultural Issues Forum	Thurs., Oct. 30	4:30-6:30 p.m.	500 Ballroom
Conduct of Chapter Meetings	Fri., Oct. 31	9-11 a.m.	500 Ballroom
Marketing Plan	Fri., Oct. 31	9-11 a.m.	126-128
Parliamentary Procedure	Fri., Oct. 31	2-4 p.m.	500 Ballroom

AWARDS PROGRAMS AND MAIN STAGE RECOGNITION

CDE/LDE awards programs are open events (no tickets required) to recognize all participants and teams. Capture memorable moments! Selfie photo stations will be available for competitors at every event location and during the awards program.

Main stage recognition will announce the national winners, including the top four teams and the top ten individuals, as applicable.

Cash award recipients will receive information on how to claim their award. For more details, see the [Cash Awards Guidelines](#).

National CDE/LDE Advisor Checklist

- ☐ Read this document, General Orientation.
 - ☐ Ensure cde@ffa.org is added to your safe sender list.
 - ☐ Sign up for CDE/LDE updates on the CDE/LDE webpage: <https://www.ffa.org/participate/cde-lde/>.
 - ☐ Note key dates for the release of schedules, event orientation packets and locate preparation materials.
 - ☐ Review the current handbook.
 - ☐ Review/update your profile on FFA.org with your current email address and mobile number.
 - ☐ By August 8th – Download/print the Event Orientation packet at <https://www.ffa.org/participate/cde-lde/>.
 - ☐ Sept. 2 – Deadline: Certify your students and upload applicable event documents on FFA.org.
 - ☐ Sept. 15 – Deadline: Submit Reasonable Accommodations Requests, <https://form.jotform.com/adarequests/reasonable-ada-accommodations-req>
 - ☐ Sept-Oct. — Attend event orientation
- Before leaving for the national event at the convention**
- ☐ Confirm certified team members on FFA.org.



P.O.Box 1193 - Carmel, IN 46082
cateringteam@urickconcessions.com

Box Lunch Order Form

Contact Info

Organization Name: _____ Billing Contact Name: _____

Cell Number: _____ Billing Email: _____

Pick Up Time: _____ Pick Up Location: Coliseum (Taproom)

Circle Category: Wednesday (Floriculture) OR Thursday (Milk Quality & Products)

Menu Selection

Includes: chips, whole fruit, cookie, bottled water, condiments on the side

Menu Item

Order QTY

Deli Turkey & Provolone on Hoagie Roll...\$24

Sliced turkey, cheese, lettuce, tomato

Ham & Cheddar on a Hoagie Roll...\$24

Sliced ham, cheese, lettuce, cheese, tomato

Caprese Sub on a Hoagie Roll ...\$24

*Fresh mozzarella, lettuce, sliced tomato with a basil pesto drizzle
Balsamic dressing on the side.*

List Dietary Restrictions: _____

Ordering Instructions - Order Deadline: Friday October 17, 2025

1. Fill out this form and sign. 2. Email this form to: cateringteam@urickconcessions.com
- Subject line: FFA BOX LUNCH ORDER

*A payment link will be sent once the order is received to the email listed on this form. Payment is **due at time of order**. Order is not considered complete until payment is received. **If your organization is tax exempt, please provide documentation. If your organization is not exempt, sales tax will be added.***

Client Signature _____ **Date:** _____