



Congratulations!

All times EDT

Welcome to the National FFA Forestry Career Development Event and the 98th National FFA Convention & Expo.

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 on [Wed. Oct. 8, at 4 p.m.](#) 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 ababers@laffa.org to ensure they are addressed and included in the recording.

Team check-in will begin at 7:30 a.m. on Wed. Oct. 29 in room 201 of the JW Marriott. The written exam begins at 8 a.m. Students will then be transported off-site to a local forest. They are expected to return for pickup at the Indiana Convention Center – Maryland Street, door #4, at 6 p.m.

Coaches and advisors will be transported to the event site for an event review. The bus will depart the Indiana Convention Center – Maryland Street, door #4, at 2:30 p.m. (Look for the Green-Forestry flag). A secondary event review will be hosted on Thurs. at 2 p.m. before the awards program at the Indiana Convention Center.

Event Details

Three scan sheet samples are available for your students to review: one for the written exam, one for disorders/equipment/products identification, and the [Forestry 530-3 scan sheet](#) found with the Orientation documents. Additionally, a digital copy of Science of Forestry Management has been made available as a resource for the written exam and is included in the Preparation documents, select Past Tests and Practicums. One rotational practicum will be selected from the following options: Forest Management Evaluation (TSI), Chainsaw Operation and Maintenance, and Compass.

****Handbook Clarification**** The first bullet point under "Disorders, Equipment, and Products Identification" on page 8 of the handbook should be revised to read: A maximum of 40 items from the identification lists will be displayed for participants to identify. This will include approximately 20 samples related to equipment, about 10 items related to tree/forest disorders or symptoms (including pathogens), and about 10 items concerning forest products. Students will respond with a three-digit number designating each item.

Equipment

All necessary tools and equipment for the event will be provided. This includes pencils, clipboards, paper, calculators, tree scale sticks, compasses, safety glasses, and hard hats. Students must wear the provided hard hats and should not bring their own, as the offered hard hats ensure the necessary protection. Each student may bring a clinometer to use during the Tree Measurement—Timber Cruising for Board Volume practicum only. Please note that clinometers cannot be shared among teammates.

Food and Beverage

We will be providing a student box lunch. Please ensure any allergies have been communicated via the [accommodations request](#) by Mon. Sept. 15.

Dress

Participants must come to the event prepared to work in adverse weather conditions. The event will be conducted regardless of the weather. Participants should have rain gear, warm clothes, and closed-toed shoes. The Forestry Committee will not implement practicums that threaten participant safety due to weather. Practicums such as Timber Cruising will change to accommodate weather conditions in extreme cases. Students will be allowed to bring cell phones, but they must be turned in at the beginning of the event.

Recognition

All teams and individuals will be recognized at the Awards Program in the Indiana Convention Center. Team participants, coaches, advisors, and family members with convention badges can attend. This program will be streamed on FFA.org. The top four teams and top 10 individuals will be presented with their final placings on stage during the Third General Session at Lucas Oil Stadium.

Good luck with your preparation for this event. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions. Safe travels to all, and I look forward to seeing you in Indianapolis.

Sincerely,

*Aaron Babers
Event Superintendent, Forestry
318-471-3069 – ababers@laffa.org*



FORESTRY CAREER DEVELOPMENT EVENT

2025 EVENT SCHEDULE

All times EDT. Schedule subject to change.

Date	Time	Event	Location
Wednesday, Oct 8	4 p.m.	Team Orientation	Zoom
Wednesday, Oct. 29	6:30 a.m.	Drop/Add Deadline for team members	Log into Profile to change in certification
	7:30 a.m.	Team Check In	Room 201-205 (JW)
	8 – 8:30 a.m.	Written Exam	Room 201-205 (JW)
	9 a.m.	Buses Depart	(JW)
	11 a.m. – 4 p.m.	Rotations	Forest
		Student Lunch Served	Forest
	2:30 p.m.	Advisor Bus Departs	Maryland St. - Door 4 (ICC)
	4 p.m.	Event Review	Off-Site
	5 p.m.	Buses Depart	Forest
	6 p.m.	Buses Return	Maryland St. (ICC)
Thursday, Oct. 30	2 p.m.	Event Review	Rooms 126-128 (ICC)
	3 p.m.	Awards Program	Rooms 126-128 (ICC)
	7 p.m.	Final Placings - Third General Session	Lucas Oil Stadium

Location Guide

- **JW Marriott (JW):** 10 S. West St. Indianapolis, IN 46225
- **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-reque>
- ☐ Sept-Oct. — Attend event orientation

Before leaving for the national event at the convention

- ☐ Confirm certified team members on FFA.org.