



NATIONAL
FFA ORGANIZATION

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Congrats!

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Congratulations for qualifying to participate in the 2015 National FFA Agricultural Technology & Mechanical Systems Career Development Event at the 88th National FFA Convention & Expo!

Please read the ATMS CDE rules, general references list, examples of competencies, etc., provided in the event handbook located on the [agricultural technology and mechanical systems event webpage](#). Each year participants and/or teams encounter problems that would not have occurred if they had read the event materials and planned accordingly.

The website, (<http://web.missouri.edu/~schumacher/natcon.html>), is dedicated to the 2015 event and is periodically updated. **Coaches and/or team members should regularly check the website for new information. If you have questions about a specific skill area, please email the associate superintendent in charge of that skill area and copy the message to the event superintendent.**

Please pay special attention to the list of required computer equipment for 2015. Make sure your students have the appropriate user and administrative privileges on their laptops to install and use programs, drivers, etc., as the team activities may require. Students must set up and operate their laptops and printers without assistance. Flash drives with PDF documents will be provided to each team at the start of the team activity. For teams that do not want to travel with printers, a printer will be provided for the printing of final reports for the team activity. Teams without printers must be able to save their work to the flash drive provided so the CDE staff can print the completed report.

Team advisors and members must **not** plan other activities during the day on Wednesday or Thursday. Teams participate in the event only three to five hours each day, but team members must be available to complete the event activities according to a rotation schedule. State team members **must** participate in the CDE together. If a team member has a scheduling conflict because of an official FFA recognition ceremony, the team advisor should notify national FFA immediately at cde@FFA.org. The event superintendent should again be reminded of this conflict at the team orientation meeting at noon on Wednesday of the convention.

It is essential that team members and coaches/advisors are present for the team orientation meeting on Wednesday. Participants will be given instructions for Wednesday's events and assigned a time slot for the individual skills events on Thursday. **Each team member should bring the appropriate clear Z-87 safety glasses, a calculator and at least two no. 2 pencils with erasers.**

During the CDE activities, students are **not** allowed to use electronic communication devices such as two way radios, cellphones, pagers, PDAs, etc. Such devices are not allowed to be used as calculators. If a student is observed using any type of electronic communication device during the CDE activities, that person may be disqualified. If an emergency should arise, advisors and/or students are instructed to contact a CDE official immediately for assistance.

If you have any questions prior to the CDE, please contact the CDE staff members at cde@FFA.org or the CDE superintendent at eafrank@ag.arizona.edu

Thank you and good luck!

Edward A. Franklin
Event Superintendent