



AMERICAN FFA DEGREE

2023 ORIENTATION PACKET

Revised: August 7, 2023

Congratulations! We're proud to recognize and celebrate you as a recipient of the American FFA Degree. We invite you to receive your degree in person at the 96th National FFA Convention & Expo. This orientation packet provides all the necessary information to attend and participate in this event as a recipient of the American FFA Degree. Be sure to read it carefully and complete all steps by their respective deadlines.

OVERVIEW

- **August:** American FFA Degree recipients announced.
- **September:** Convention registration opens.
- **November:** American FFA Degree ceremony at the 96th National FFA Convention & Expo in Indianapolis.

RULES AND PROCEDURES

This event will follow the rules and procedures found in this packet. Any infraction of the rules may result in disqualification.

CHECK SPELLING

Find your name on the 2023 American FFA Degree Recipients list on the American FFA Degree webpage of FFA.org. If the spelling of your name/chapter/state is incorrect, email us BEFORE Friday, Sept. 1, at (americandegree@FFA.org). Tell us your name, chapter and state so we can find your name on the list. Then specify what the error is and provide the correct spelling.

ATTENDANCE

We encourage all American FFA Degree recipients (and their families, supporters and advisors) to register and attend the degree ceremony and the 96th National FFA Convention & Expo. Please see the In-Person Attendance section for additional information.

UNABLE TO ATTEND?

If you are unable to attend the ceremony, your American FFA Degree key and certificate will be mailed to your FFA chapter in mid-December.

If you are unable to personally attend the convention to cross the stage and receive your degree, a substitute is not permitted to cross the stage in your place.

ACCOMMODATION REQUESTS

Any convention participant requiring additional accommodations to take part in this event must [complete a request form](#) at least 30 days before any event. All requests will remain confidential. Following the request, National FFA staff will contact the participant for more information.

PRESS RELEASE

Download and customize this [news release template](#) to share the news about your success with your local community.

THANKING OUR SPONSORS

The financial commitment of our sponsors is vital to the American FFA Degree experience. Please send a physical thank you note and thank them on social media for their support.

- [American FFA Degree Sponsors \(PDF\)](#)

ALUMNI SCHOLARSHIP DRAWING

American FFA Degree recipients who are on the National FFA Alumni and Supporters roster will be entered into a drawing for a \$1,000 college scholarship. All degree recipients should have automatically received a free five years National FFA Alumni Associate Membership, but please verify this and ensure that your contact information is current on your FFA.org profile by 5 p.m. EDT on Sunday, Oct. 1, to be included in the drawing. We also encourage all degree recipients to set up an account in the [Forever Blue Network](#).

If you have not received your free FFA Alumni Associate Membership or have additional questions, email alumni@FFA.org or call 317-802-6060.

FFA ALUMNI AND SUPPORTERS RECEPTION

Friday, Nov. 3, 5 – 6:30 p.m.

Indiana Convention Center Hall K

As an OPTIONAL event, American FFA Degree recipients are invited to network with FFA Alumni and Supporters, past national officers, special award winners and corporate partners over hors d'oeuvres at the Alumni and Supporters Reception. Registration for the reception is free to American Degree recipients and \$15 for other guests.

IN-PERSON COMPONENTS

The 96th National FFA Convention & Expo occurs Nov. 1-4 in Indianapolis. The American FFA Degree Ceremony will begin Saturday, Nov. 4, at 7:30 a.m. EDT in Lucas Oil Stadium. Doors open at 6:30 a.m. Candidates should be in their seats by 7 a.m. Recipient recognition in 2023 starts with the state of Alabama and ends with the state of Wyoming. Within each state, recipients will be recognized alphabetically by last name.

Important: Recipients are encouraged to consult their FFA chapter advisors to prevent duplicate registrations or housing reservations

REGISTRATION

We encourage all American FFA Degree candidates and their guests to attend the 96th National FFA Convention & Expo in person. Registration will open Wednesday, Sept. 20, at 6 p.m. EDT. [Click here](#) for more registration information.

Convention registration is required to attend or participate in all in-person convention components.

American FFA Degree recipients receive three complimentary single-day registrations good for Saturday only — one for themselves and two for guests. Recipients must enter the online registration process using the FFA.org account associated with their American FFA Degree application to access the complimentary registrations. (<https://convention.ffa.org/registration/>)

BADGE PICK UP

Name badges must be picked up in person at the Indiana Convention Center, Hall A. Additional registrations may be purchased on site.

Schedule (All times EDT)

Tuesday, Oct. 31: 1-8 p.m.

Wednesday, Nov. 1: 8 a.m.- 8 p.m.

Thursday, Nov. 2: 6 a.m.- 6 p.m.

Friday, Nov. 3: 8 a.m.- 8 p.m.

Saturday, Nov. 4, 6:30-9 a.m. (Lucas Oil Stadium only)

MAPS AND PARKING

Maps, parking and additional information will be posted on the event website (convention.ffa.org) before the 96th National FFA Convention & Expo.

HOUSING

American FFA Degree recipients are eligible to book hotel reservations via the convention housing program. Housing reservations are available through Wednesday, Oct. 4, at 5 p.m. EDT. Please note: Wednesday, Sept. 13, at 5 p.m. EDT is the last day to cancel a reservation without penalty.

National FFA Convention & Expo Housing Reservations: <https://book.passkey.com/go/IAmDegreeFFA2023>
Contact the FFA Housing Bureau for additional assistance via email (ffahousing@visitindy.com) or phone (317-262-8191) and provide them with the following code: **IAmDegreeFFA2023**. The housing bureau is open Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. EDT.

CONVENTION DRESS

All FFA members should wear Official Dress while attending the national convention. Official Dress is required to cross the stage during the American FFA Degree Ceremony. Consult the [FFA Official Manual](#), page 28, for information about Official Dress.

If you need a new FFA jacket before the event, order from [ShopFFA](#) as soon as possible. Call 1-888-332-2668 to receive priority handling. To guarantee delivery, all jackets must be ordered by Saturday, Sept. 23. FFA jackets are not available at the 96th National FFA Convention & Expo.

AMERICAN FFA DEGREE BOOKLET

The commemorative American FFA Degree Booklet will be available online on the [American FFA Degree webpage](#) to download and/or print for free in October.

PHOTOS

Professional Photos

All American FFA Degree recipients will have professional photos taken backstage and onstage by Grad Images. These high-quality photos are available for sale 7-10 days following the event. Photo proofs are emailed to the address provided in each recipient's application. The email address may be changed by notifying national staff at Ameriandegree@ffa.org no later than Friday, Sept. 15.

For additional questions, contact Grad Images via its website (<http://www.gradimages.com>) or phone (1-800-261-2576).

Personal/Family Photos

Multiple photo backdrops are available in the Lucas Oil Stadium concourse for single, group or family photos during the American FFA Degree Ceremony. Floor access to take on- or off-stage photos is not permitted.

NO ARENA FLOOR ACCESS

Due to space and security requirements, only American FFA Degree recipients and state association staff are permitted on the floor during the American FFA Degree ceremony. Please inform your guests in advance of this rule to prevent disappointment.

ON-SITE HELP

Awards and recognition staff Emily Hockema, program specialist; Brett Evans, education specialist; and Madeline Young, program specialist, are ready to help on site during national convention. Visit the Awards and Recognition Office in the Indiana Convention Center, Room 109.

The office is open from Tuesday, Oct. 31 to Friday, Nov. 3, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The room is closed daily from Noon-1 p.m. for lunch.

OTHER CONVENTION OPPORTUNITIES

NATIONAL CHAPTER FINALS

Indiana Convention Center — 500 Ballroom

The top chapters from the National Chapter Award Program will showcase their chapter activities on the National Chapter Finalists Stage.

Date	Time (EDT)	Event
Wed. Nov. 1	9-10:30 a.m.	Model of Excellence
Wed. Nov. 1	10:30 a.m.-Noon	Middle School Model of Excellence
Wed. Nov. 1	1:30-2:20 p.m.	Premier Chapter: Growing Leaders
Wed. Nov. 1	2:30-3:20 p.m.	Premier Chapter: Strengthening Agriculture
Wed. Nov. 1	3:30-4:20 p.m.	Premier Chapter: Building Communities

CDE/LDE FINALS HALL

Indiana Convention Center — 500 Ballroom

See the top CDE/LDE participants compete in their finals.

Date	Time (EDT)	Event
Wed. Nov. 1	5:30-6:30 p.m.	FFA Creed Speaking
Thurs. Nov. 2	9:30-11 a.m.	Extemporaneous Public Speaking
Thurs. Nov. 2	Noon-2 p.m.	Agricultural Communications
Thurs. Nov. 2	3-4:30 p.m.	Prepared Public Speaking
Thurs. Nov. 2	5:30-7:30 p.m.	Agricultural Issues Forum
Fri. Nov. 3	8-10 a.m.	Conduct of Chapter Meetings
Fri. Nov. 3	11 a.m.-1 p.m.	Marketing Plan
Fri. Nov. 3	3-5 p.m.	Parliamentary Procedure

STUDENT SHOWCASE STAGE

Indiana Convention Center — Hall K

Visit this interactive stage and watch members demonstrate their projects and the skills they have learned in front of an audience. Members will answer questions from a panel of industry professionals.

Date	Time (EDT)
Wed. Nov. 1	10:45 a.m.-3 p.m.
Thurs. Nov. 2	9:30 a.m.-4 p.m.
Fri. Nov. 3	8 a.m.-3 p.m.

AMERICAN FFA DEGREE CANDIDATE CHECKLIST

BY FRIDAY, SEPT. 1

- o Email name/chapter/state spelling corrections to americandegree@ffa.org. Corrections received after Sept. 1 will not be made. (*ONLY IF APPLICABLE*)

BY FRIDAY, SEPT. 15

- o Notify National FFA if you need your email address updated for photos (americandegree@ffa.org).
- o Complete the [accommodation request form](#) (*if applicable*).
- o Check Official Dress; order a new FFA jacket if necessary.

WEEK OF SEPT. 17

- o [Registration](#) opens Wednesday, Sept. 20, at 6 p.m. EDT.

WEEK OF OCT. 1

- o By Sunday, Oct. 1, write and send a thank you letter to [award sponsors](#) and thank them on social media.
- o Housing reservations close Wednesday, Oct 4, at 5 p.m. EDT.
- o Confirm National FFA Alumni & Supporters membership status for the Alumni Scholarship Drawing.

NOV. 1-4

- o Attend the 96th National FFA Convention & Expo in Indianapolis.
- o OPTIONAL: Alumni and Supporters Reception (TICKET REQUIRED)
- o American Degree Session in Lucas Oil Stadium: Be seated by 7 a.m.