



Event Information

96TH OHIO FFA CONVENTION

MAY 2-3, 2024 • OHIO EXPO CENTER • COLUMBUS, OHIO

The Ohio FFA Convention is held at the Ohio Expo Center in Columbus, Ohio, and typically attracts more than 9,000 attendees over its two-day span. In 2024, the convention will take place May 2-3. Attendees are encouraged to plan ahead and allow ample time for traffic, parking, registration, and navigating the Ohio Expo Center.

ACCESSIBILITY

If a member or attendee who has a need for specific accommodations wishes to request an accommodation for a disability, please contact Brenda Correll. A request for accommodation during the Ohio FFA Convention must be received 30 days prior to the event.

CODE OF CONDUCT

The FFA operates with the following value statements:

- We respect and embrace every individual's culture and experiences.
- We welcome every individual's contribution to advance our communities and the industry of agriculture.
- We cultivate an environment that allows every individual to recognize and explore their differences.
- We create leadership opportunities for every individual to enhance their personal and professional endeavors.
- Attendees at convention are expected to embrace these statements as individual members and representatives of their chapter.

DELEGATE BUSINESS SESSION & LUNCHEON

The Delegate Business Session and Luncheon will be held in Kasich Hall (**New location in 2024**, across 17th Ave.) at noon on May 2, 2024. Each chapter may select two members to serve as official FFA delegates. Delegates must be pre-registered. The business session will include the election of the 2024-25 Ohio FFA State Officer Team. Following the voting procedure, delegates will participate in facilitated, guided table discussions on topics and issues that are timely and important to the Ohio FFA Association and its members.

ENTRY & SECURITY

FFA members must wear FFA member buttons and advisor/adults/guests must wear name badges. All convention attendees must present their button/name badge to gain access to all convention venues. Buttons/name badges can be picked up at registration – which is located in the central lobby of the Celeste Center. Buttons/name badges must be worn at all times. Event staff will be enforcing that all individuals in attendance are wearing buttons/name badges at the convention.

Arrive early to avoid long lines before convention sessions!

For the protection and safety of our attendees, a security check will take place at entry into the Celeste Center. Similar procedures found in airports today will be used during entry. This will include entry through metal detectors and/or use of wands. All persons and bags are subject to search upon entry.

Please see a list of prohibited items under "What to Leave at Home" for more information.



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HEALTH & SAFETY

In case of illness or accident, FFA members should contact their advisor. If further assistance is required, contact the Ohio State Highway Patrol Troopers on-site. **In an emergency, always dial 911.**

HOUSING AND DINING

See what Columbus has to offer by visiting the Greater Columbus Convention & Visitors Bureau website, www.experiencecolumbus.com.

PARKING

Parking is available on the Ohio Expo Center & State Fair grounds for both school buses and personal vehicles. One-time entry parking passes are available for \$7. Event parking passes are available for \$20. School buses and vehicles clearly marked as school transportation do not need parking passes and are admitted for free.

PERSONAL BELONGINGS IN VEHICLES

Drivers are responsible for the security of the vehicle and the items left inside. Please make sure you do not leave personal belongings visible such as money, cell phones, laptops, etc. in vehicles during the convention. Convention attendees are encouraged to lock their vehicles and secure valuables.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Linde's Livestock Photos is once again serving as the official Ohio FFA Convention photographer. Linde's Livestock Photos will be capturing moments throughout the Ohio FFA Convention including onstage in the Celeste Center and in the career show. Digital downloads of photos will be available for \$12 per photo, \$10 per photo when purchasing 10, and \$8 per photo when purchasing 35 or more. Photos can be found at linde.shootproof.com. Be sure to visit the Linde's Livestock Photos booth in the career show for official backdrop photos (available for purchase). A percentage of photo sales will benefit the Ohio FFA Foundation.

REGISTRATION

Pre-registration for the 96th Ohio FFA Convention will be open March 8, 2024, through April 8, 2024. If you are ordering a two-day parking pass, you must pre-register. Delegates must go through the pre-registration process. After April 8th, you may only register at the convention site in the Celeste Center. If you have any questions, please contact Brenda Correll.

The cost of registration for each FFA member is \$30.00. The cost of registration for advisors, parents and other guests is \$10.00. Two-day parking passes are available for \$20. School buses and vehicles clearly marked school transportation do not need parking passes and are admitted for free.

If you order parking passes online by April 8th, a parking pass token will be mailed to advisors before convention. Upon entering the Ohio Expo Center, exchange your parking pass token for a two-day parking pass. All other registration materials can be picked up in the central lobby of the Celeste Center upon arrival.



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STREAMING

For those who are not able to attend the in-person event, we are excited to offer a livestream experience, sponsored by Ohio Corn & Wheat. All convention sessions will be available during and after the sessions on the Ohio FFA YouTube channel.

THINGS TO DO

There are various opportunities for members to stay busy during their time at the Ohio FFA Convention. All are encouraged to attend the five general convention sessions with inspiring keynote speakers and to cheer on members' accomplishments. Pre-session activities begin 15 minutes before each session. *Please note: The pre-sessions and sessions may include bright and/or flashing lights.*

Attendees are also welcomed to visit the career show to network with industry professionals and supporters or go purchase apparel in the Ohio FFA Fashion Place. Still looking for things to do? Tune in for the talent showcase that will highlight members' skills, take a walk through the Proficiency, Agriscience Fair and the Chapter Showcase displays or attend a workshop in the Bricker building.

WHAT TO BRING

Students should talk with their advisors to make sure they have adequate funds for their trip to the 96th Ohio FFA Convention. Individual expenses could include meals from the food court and/or concessions and purchases from vendors in the career expo and the Ohio FFA Fashion Place.

WHAT TO EAT

While at the fairgrounds, attendees have access to a food court in the Bricker building. Due to Ohio Expo Center facility restrictions, attendees are not permitted to bring in outside food or have outside food delivered to the grounds.

New this year: Schmidt's, the official caterer of the Ohio Expo Center, will take pre-orders from chapters for group meals. Chapters can order group meals by emailing kristen.kahrs@schmidthospitality.com by April 15, 2024. *Group meal orders will not be accepted after April 15.*

WHAT TO LEAVE AT HOME

For safety reasons, prohibited items include but are not limited to:

- Knives (all types and all sizes)
- Weapons of any type
- Alcohol, drugs, illegal substances, or any paraphernalia associated with drug use
- Laser pens/pointers of any type
- Pepper spray/mace
- Any other item deemed unacceptable by event/building management

For the quickest entry process, attendees are encouraged to not bring laptops into the Celeste Center.



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WHAT TO WEAR

FFA members should wear 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 and black dress shoes with closed heel and toe. Additional information about Official Dress can be found in the Official FFA Manual. All students appearing on the convention stage must wear Official Dress. Many advisors choose to wear business casual or business professional attire.

WORKSHOPS

Workshops will be available for members in the Bricker Building at 8:30am on Thursday, May 2 and 1:00pm and 4:00pm on Friday, May 3. Workshops are available on a first-come, first-served basis and do not require any additional registration.

QUESTIONS

If you have any additional questions regarding the Ohio FFA Convention, please visit ohioffa.org/programs/state-convention or contact Brenda Correll at bcorrell@ohioffa.org.



**VISIT OUR CONVENTION HUB
FOR ALL EVENT LINKS.**

linktr.ee/ohioffa