

ANNOUNCEMENT

NEW JERSEY FFA PRELIMINARY LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT EVENTS

To: New Jersey FFA Chapter Advisors/Food, Agriculture and Natural Resource Educators

From: Jenny J. Allen, State FFA Specialist

CC: Erin E. Noble, State FFA Advisor

Re: Preliminary Leadership Development Events

- Northern Region: Tuesday, March 25, 2025 – 3:30 am – 7:00 pm
Voorhees High School - 256 County Rd. 513, Glen Gardner, NJ 08826
- Central Region: Wednesday, March 26, 2025 – 3:30 am – 7:00 pm
Allentown High School - 27 High Street, Allentown, NJ 08501
- Southern Region: Thursday, March 27, 2025 – 3:30 am – 7:00 pm
Cumberland Regional High School - 90 Silver Lake Road, Bridgeton, NJ 08302

Date: October 11, 2024

WHO CAN ATTEND?

Students and teachers from all schools with Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources programs are encouraged to attend and participate in the educational activities provided in their respective region. FFA activities are integral to Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources instruction.

Teachers will be assigned to a Leadership Development Event and will work together to supervise students throughout the event. All students attending **must** participate in the Leadership Development Events provided. Provisions for observation will not be made.

WHO CAN COMPETE?

1. Contestants must be currently enrolled in an approved agricultural education course and appear on the chapter's roster.
2. Students who have been members of a first-place official team in team events or first place individual in individual events in a state event and have participated at the highest level for that event may not compete again in that particular event.
3. Chapters are invited to bring up to 2 students per individual event and 1 team per team event. The top 2 students in each individual event and the top team in each team event from the region will advance finals held at the State FFA Convention in May.

HOW DO I SIGN-UP?

Participant Lists, manuscripts, and payment for all chapters participating in Preliminary Leadership Development Events is requested by **Saturday, March 1st**. – **Please sign-up using www.JudgingCard.com.**

Northern Region: <https://www.judgingcard.com/Registration/Info.aspx?ID=20672>

Central Region: <https://www.judgingcard.com/Registration/Info.aspx?ID=20673>

Southern Region: <https://www.judgingcard.com/Registration/Info.aspx?ID=20675>

- A. 3-5 Minute Public Speaking (*MUST upload manuscript to Preliminary LDE registration*)
- B. 6-8 Minute Prepared Public Speaking (*MUST upload manuscript to Preliminary LDE registration*)
- C. Creed Speaking
- D. Extemporaneous Public Speaking
- E. Parliamentary Procedure
- F. Conduct of Chapter Meetings

Steps to using the [judgingcard.com](http://www.judgingcard.com)

1. Log in to www.JudgingCard.com (use the same login information as AET)
2. Click on the leftmost icon at the bottom of the screen for "Registration and Information."
3. Use the month list at the top of the calendar to browse to the month of the contest you need to register for (March).
4. Click on the event link for your respective region "New Jersey Northern Region Preliminary LDEs" (March 25), "New Jersey Central Region Preliminary LDEs" (March 26), or "New Jersey Southern Region Preliminary LDEs" (March 27)... this will pull up the event's registration page.
5. Click the link to "Online Registration" at the top of the page.
6. Click on the link to "Registration" next to each event you need to register for (i.e. 3-5 Minute Public Speaking, Cred Speaking, etc.).
7. Change the "Number of Contestants" to the number you are registering, specify an advisor, and then choose contestant name(s) – must appear on the roster, and upload the manuscript, if applicable.
8. Click the "Submit Entry" button.
9. Repeat steps 6, 7, and 8 for each event for which you need to register.
10. Review all of their entries back on the event's main page.

***Please note, event materials must be submitted with Preliminary LDE registration. Materials not received in the office by March 1, 2025 will receive a 10% deduction in score.**

HOW MUCH DOES IT COST?

A \$44.00 per team, or \$11.00 per contestant, skill assessment fee is invoiced per event for each chapter participating. No food, travel or lodging is covered through these fees. Please make checks payable to: Treasurer, State of New Jersey with "FFA Preliminary LDE" in the memo line and send to the Office of Food Agriculture and Natural Resources Education, New Jersey Department of Agriculture, P.O. Box 330, Trenton, NJ 08625-0330. **Participant Lists received after March 1st are subject to a \$10 late fee per event.** Participant Lists will not be accepted any later than one week prior to the event. Please be prepared to pay prior to or at the check-in desk. **Chapters who affiliate with the "Blue Supplemental Package" will receive a discount on Leadership Development Assessments.**

(Remember, your payment is non-refundable since your participant lists are what we use to pay for assessment expenses. NOTE: The only exception, according to New Jersey's FFA Conference Refund Policy, is a doctor's note or proof of death in the immediate family along with a cover

letter explaining the circumstance. This must be sent to the state executive board within one month of the event.)

WHERE DO I PARK ON EVENT DAY?

Parking information will be provided via email closer to the day of the event.

WHEN AND WHERE DO I CHECK-IN?

All competitors need to check-in starting at 3:30 pm and no later than 3:50 pm. Students/teams will draw their order of appearance at check-in. The exact location will be provided via email closer to the day of the event. Events will **START PROMPTLY at 4:00 pm as SCHEDULED**. It is estimated that events will wrap up by 7:00 pm. Members must be accompanied to these events by an advisor(s)/chaperone approved by the school.

HOW ARE EVENTS SCORED?

1. Manuscripts for the 3-5 and 6-8 minute prepared public speaking events will be judged before the event. All judges will use the same manuscript score.
2. Each judge, without collaboration with others, will use the official rubric to score each participant/team. When all participants/teams have finished, each judge will total the score and deduct any applicable penalties. The judges' rankings of each participant/team shall then be added, and the winner will be that participant whose total ranking is lowest.
3. Ties will be broken based on the greatest number of low ranks. If a tie still exists, the manuscript score (for 6-8 & 3-5), written exam score (for Parli Pro & Conduct of Chapter Meetings), and responses to questions score (for Extemp & Creed) will be used.
4. The chapter with the highest team score in the Parliamentary Procedure and Conduct of Chapter Meetings will have the opportunity to compete in the Final Round at the New Jersey State FFA Convention in May 2025. The top two individuals in each region from the 3-5 and 6-8 Prepared Public Speaking, Creed Speaking and Extemporaneous Public Speaking events will have the opportunity to compete at the New Jersey State FFA Convention in May 2025.
5. Students in 3-5 and 6-8 Prepared Public Speaking advancing to the Final Round, can make updates to their manuscript before State FFA Convention registration is due. The original manuscript for any student who does not upload a new manuscript with State FFA Convention registration will be used for the final round.

WHEN WILL WE KNOW RESULTS?

Finalists will be announced shortly after the last competitor has competed. Schools are not required to stay for the announcement of the finalists. Results are available at https://www.nj.gov/agriculture/ag_ed/ffa/career/cderesults25.html a few hours following the event. **DO NOT CALL THE STATE OFFICE FOR RESULTS.** Results become **OFFICIAL** when an email is sent from the Office of Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Education announcing the results.

WHAT STUDENT RECOGNITION IS THERE?

Awards will not be given for preliminary events. Students/Teams who advance to finals will be recognized on social media and via email.

WHAT ARE THE RULES?

1. No individuals from the same school/chapter may talk, confer with each other. Penalty will be loss of score for that section of the event or disqualification for the event. Event coordinator has the authority to make disqualifications.
2. Participants are NOT allowed to use (or have visible) electronic devices during the event, unless for medical reasons or a portion of the event requires usage. This includes cell phones, iPods, tablets, etc. Participants will be allowed to use calculators, if specified for that event; however, cell phone calculators are not permitted! **Failure to adhere to these rules will result in disqualification.**
3. All individuals participating will compete in a cooperative manner following the rules set forth by the event coordinator.
4. Chapters are invited to bring up to 2 students per individual event and 1 team per team event. The top 2 students in each individual event and the top team in each team event will advance to the final round at the State FFA Convention in May.
5. In the event more than 8 students are registered in any one regional event, a preliminary round will be held with a final round held 30 minutes at the conclusion of prelims. Contestants will be split into enough rooms so there are no more than 8 contestants. The top 2 contestants in each room will advance to "finals." The top two contestants in the final round will advance to the State FFA Convention in May.
6. There will be no separate alternate teams.
7. A student may not compete in more than one event during FFA Preliminary Leadership Development Events. A student cannot compete in more than one event at the National Competition each year.
8. If an individual finalist is unable to compete at the state FFA convention, that chapter forfeits that contestant and a replacement cannot be made. Team finalists can replace up to 2 team members prior to the competition at the state FFA convention. If more members need to be replaced, the chapter forfeits.

WHAT SHOULD MY STUDENTS WEAR AND HOW SHOULD THEY ACT?

1. Official FFA Dress is the appropriate attire for this event. Complete official dress should be worn. *Consult the Official Manual for descriptions of official dress.*
2. All Contestants will abide by the FFA Code of Ethics and conduct themselves at all times to be a credit to their organization, chapter, school, community and family. This includes:
 - 1) Develop my potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success.
 - 2) Make a positive difference in the lives of others.
 - 3) Dress neatly and appropriately for the occasion.
 - 4) Respect the rights of others and their property.

- 5) Be courteous, honest and fair with others.
- 6) Communicate in an appropriate, purposeful and positive manner.
- 7) Demonstrate good sportsmanship by being modest in winning and generous in defeat.
- 8) Make myself aware of FFA programs and activities and be an active participant.
- 9) Conduct and value a supervised agricultural experience program.
- 10) Strive to establish and enhance my skills through agricultural education in order to enter a successful career.
- 11) Appreciate and promote diversity in our organization

3. FFA members will support the FFA Value Statements which include:

- a. We respect and embrace every individual's culture and experiences.
- b. We welcome every individual's contribution to advance our communities and the industry of agriculture.
- c. We cultivate an environment that allows every individual to recognize and explore their differences.
- d. We create leadership opportunities for every individual to enhance their personal and professional endeavors.

WHEN AND WHERE DO WE EAT?

The event schedule is continuous from 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm. Participants are encouraged to bring dinner. Food will not be available on site. Attendees are encouraged to bring reusable water bottles.

HOW DO I GET SPECIAL ASSISTANCE FOR MY STUDENTS?

The New Jersey FFA Association is committed to providing equal access to our events and activities for all people. Please utilize the Request for Reasonable Accommodations to get special assistance for your student(s). Use this form to request a reasonable accommodation or assistance at least 3 weeks before any state-level events: <https://form.jotform.com/NJFFA/accommodations-request>. A new form will need to be submitted for each event for which a reasonable accommodation is being requested. This information will be kept confidential and will be used only to process the request. Our staff will review the request upon receipt and contact the requestor with additional information. The association cannot guarantee accommodations or assistance if a form is received less than 3 weeks before an event. Accommodations being requested that require the assistance of another person (nurse, interpreter, scribe, reader, etc.) is the responsibility of the school/requestor. It is also the school/requestor's responsibility to provide any approved equipment to aide in the accommodation process, if applicable. To conduct a state level Leadership Development Event efficiently, no additional time will be provided to a student to complete portions of that Leadership Development Event.

WHAT REGION IS MY CHAPTER?

There shall be three FFA regions in the State consisting of the following counties:

Northern Region: Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Hunterdon, Morris, Passaic, Somerset, Sussex, Union, Warren

Central Region: Burlington, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth

Southern Region: Atlantic, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester, Ocean, Salem

WHAT CAN WE EXPECT AT THE EVENTS?

3-5 Minute Prepared Public Speaking

A copy of the event rules, scorecards and summary can be found in the state activity guide on the New Jersey Food, Agriculture & Natural Resources Education website, https://www.jerseyageducation.nj.gov/agriculture/ag_ed/ffa/activity/index.html. (Document 15.003).

6-8 Minute Prepared Public Speaking

This event will be conducted according to national rules and regulations. A copy of the event rules, scorecards and summary can be found in the state activity guide on the New Jersey Food, Agriculture & Natural Resources Education website, https://www.jerseyageducation.nj.gov/agriculture/ag_ed/ffa/activity/index.html (Document 12.016).

Creed Speaking

This event will be conducted according to national rules and regulations. A copy of the event rules, scorecards and summary can be found in the state activity guide on the New Jersey Food, Agriculture & Natural Resources Education website, https://www.jerseyageducation.nj.gov/agriculture/ag_ed/ffa/activity/index.html (Document 12.015).

Extemporaneous Public Speaking

This event will be conducted according to national rules and regulations. A copy of the event rules, scorecards, and summary can be found in the state activity guide on the New Jersey Food, Agriculture & Natural Resources Education website, https://www.jerseyageducation.nj.gov/agriculture/ag_ed/ffa/activity/index.html. (Document 12.017).

Parliamentary Procedure

This event will be conducted according to national rules and regulations. Students should be prepared in all event sections. A copy of the event rules, scorecards and summary can be found in the state activity guide on the New Jersey Food, Agriculture & Natural Resources Education website, https://www.jerseyageducation.nj.gov/agriculture/ag_ed/ffa/activity/index.html (Document 12.009).

Conduct of Chapter Meetings

This event will be conducted according to national rules and regulations. Students should be prepared in all event sections. A copy of the event rules, scorecards and summary can be found in the state activity guides on the New Jersey Food, Agriculture & Natural Resources education website, https://www.jerseyageducation.nj.gov/agriculture/ag_ed/ffa/activity/index.html (Document 15.016).

AS A TEACHER AND FFA ADVISOR, WHAT IS MY ROLE?

The support and assistance of teachers and FFA advisors is vital for the success of Leadership Development Events. This assistance includes serving as proctors or timekeepers for components of the event, scoring of some rounds, and helping as needed. You will also serve as an adult chaperone for the students in your event, as their advisor may be assisting at a different event location.

Tentative event assignments are provided below. In the event that you are unable to assist where indicated, please notify Jenny Allen at jenny.allen@ag.nj.gov immediately. Prior to the event, confirmation emails will be sent to you reminding you of where your assistance is requested.

NORTHERN - LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT EVENT ASSIGNMENTS (Tentative)**3-5 Minute Prepared Public Speaking**

Jessica Heritage
Rachel Arena
Taryn Romanczak
Anabela Bentzinger

6-8 Minute Prepared Public Speaking

Kaitlyn Tallamy
Adrianna Ruggieri
Carmela Schlitzer
Matt Monaco

Parliamentary Procedure

Owen Donnelly
Giselle Gomes
Dan Delcher
Amy Balliet

Creed Speaking

Andee Dixon
Patty Smith
Rachel Van Gorden

Extemporaneous Public Speaking

Sam Casqueira
Matt Duckworth
Erik Fargo
Joanna Knoblauch

Conduct of Chapter Meetings

Andrew Morris
Laura Pinhas
Renee Stillwell
Jennifer Obrizan

CENTRAL - LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT EVENT ASSIGNMENTS (Tentative)**3-5 Minute Prepared Public Speaking**

Denise Emmons
Dawn Viveiros-Meredith
Jill Wetzel

6-8 Minute Prepared Public Speaking

Kristina Guttadora
Kylie Naylor
Liam Ryan

Parliamentary Procedure

Dale Cruzan
Brian Ducey
Karissa Kester

Creed Speaking

Justin Naylor
Robin McLean
Catherin Zavacky

Extemporaneous Public Speaking

Katie Avagnano
Nan Hamilton
Ed Birdsall

Conduct of Chapter Meetings

Jillian Wojtaszek
Brian Hayes
Brian Martin

SOUTHERN - LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT EVENT ASSIGNMENTS (Tentative)**3-5 Minute Prepared Public Speaking**

Deanna Miller
Patricia Thorne

6-8 Minute Prepared Public Speaking

Catherine Markowitz
Nicole Smith
Patrick Dougherty

Parliamentary Procedure

Annaliese Castellini
Keely DiTizio
Peggy Grady

Creed Speaking

Mike Adams
Carly Chaapel

Extemporaneous Public Speaking

Kimberly Bartholomew
Matthew DiTizio

Conduct of Chapter Meetings

Joel Rudderow
Hanna Toft
Tiffany Morey

“The New Jersey FFA Association is a resource and support organization that does not select, control or supervise local chapter or individual member activities except as expressly provided for in the state FFA constitution, bylaws or policies.”