

2024 ND FFA Leadership Conference General Schedule



Saturday, September 28, 2024

- 10:30 am Registration for all Conferences by Advisors (Concessions Available: 10 - Noon)
Bismarck Event Center – Lobby – Door E42
- 11:45 am Aspire Conference Begins
Bismarck Event Center – Prairie Rose Room 106
- 12:00 pm Blue/Gold Begins – Keynote Speaker Kick Off
Bismarck Event Center – Blue: Hall A
- 12:00 pm 101 Conference Begins
Bismarck Event Center – Hall C
- 1:00 pm Blue/Gold Conference Breakout
Bismarck Event Center – Gold: Hall A and Blue: Hall B
- 5:00 pm All conferences adjourn for the day
- 5:15 pm Dinner on your own

Wristband and Conference T-shirt required for entrance into evening activities for all attendees.

- 7:30 pm Doors Open
- 7:30 pm Community Service Project – Ag STEM Kit Packing
Bismarck Event Center – Hall D
- 8:00 pm - 10:30 pm FFA Store
Bismarck Event Center – Outside Hall C
- 8:30 pm Game Night (Concessions Available: 8 – 11pm)
**Bring school appropriate games*
Bismarck Event Center – Hall D
- 8:30 pm Neon Dance (Concessions Available: 8 – 11pm)
Bismarck Event Center – Hall C
- 11:00 pm Social/Dance and Game Night Concludes
- 11:15 pm Bismarck Event Center Closes

Sunday, September 29, 2024

- 8 – 9:30 am Church Services (organized on your own)
- 9:30 am All Conferences Resume
Bismarck Event Center – Gold: Hall A, Blue: Hall B, 101: Hall C, Aspire: Start in Hall C
- 11:00 am - 1:00 pm FFA Store
Bismarck Event Center - Lobby
- 12:30 pm All Conferences Adjourn

Detailed conference schedules can be found on the ND FFA website.

A to Z Leadership Conference FAQ's

Last updated: 08/26/2024



Advisor, Bus Driver, & Chaperone Conference Charge

The ND FFA Association has two opportunities to make money: Leadership Conference and State FFA Convention. The income from both allows ND FFA to host all other FFA Events without having to charge chapters to participate.

Bills

Chapters will receive a final bill invoiced at a later date following the conference. Chapters will be assessed the registration fee for students who are registered but do not attend.

Bismarck Event Center; Map

A layout of the Bismarck Event Center can be found [here](#).

Bismarck Event Center; Other Renters

The Bismarck Event Center is a public venue that is rented by a variety of individuals throughout the year. In 2024, a gun show will be held in Hall D. We need to be respectful of other guests in the building during our visit and will work with event center staff to ensure we have a safe and successful event.

Bus Parking

Bismarck Event Center: Buses will need to enter Parking Lot B, drop members off at Door E42.

Church Services

Chapters may organize church service options for members wishing to attend.

Concession Stand

The concession stand will be open Saturday September 28th from 10:00am – Noon for lunch. From 8:00pm – 11:00pm they will be selling candy, snacks, water, ice cream, and pop. Cash and credit cards are accepted.

Conference Descriptions

101 Conference: (Grades 7-9): This conference is put on by the ND FFA State Officer team for FFA members. It will focus on developing their leadership, etiquette and FFA knowledge.

Blue Conference: (Grades 10-11): This conference will focus on the basic elements of teamwork. YourNextSpeaker, LLC, based in Oklahoma, will lead the training. These highly trained, professional speakers have spent thousands of hours in front of FFA members and will provide an engaging, interactive, content-focused and meaningful conference experience. The content will be based on the 10 Techniques to Help Your Teams Work curriculum authored by Rhett Laubach, Professional Speaker and Owner of YourNextSpeaker, LLC. This curriculum includes applicable team building lessons that members can use in both their personal and educational experiences.

Gold Conference: (Grades 11-12): This conference will focus on the advanced elements of teamwork; including specific ideas applicable for any chapter officers attending the conference. YourNextSpeaker, LLC, based in Oklahoma, will lead the training. These highly trained, professional speakers have spent thousands of hours in front of FFA members and will provide an equal mix of small group discussion, lesson processing from lecture moments and hands-on, "Doing to Learn" activities. The teamwork lessons will include advanced techniques for how to both maximize contributions to teams the members are on today and in the future, as well as how to serve and help teammates do the same.

Aspire Conference: State Officer Candidates: (Grade 12): This new conference is designed for seniors that might have an interest in running for state officer at the upcoming State Convention. Students will need to fill out an extra [application](#) for as we are going to limit this conference to 40 individuals. ***This application is due September 16th***. Students who are registered for aspire but did not complete an application will be placed in the Gold Conference. This exclusive event will be facilitated by former state officers. They will learn about the running process as well as learn employability skills through

workshops and facilitation. Those seniors that are not selected from their application will be placed into the Gold Conference for participation.

Conference Fees

The cost to attend the event is a non-refundable \$65/student and \$20/adult fee.

Conference Locations

101 Conference: Hall C - Bismarck Event Center

Blue Conference: Hall B – Bismarck Event Center

Gold Conference: Hall A – Bismarck Event Center

Aspire Conference: Prairie Rose Room 106 - Bismarck Event Center

Teachers' Lounge: Upper Lobby Area – Bismarck Event Center

Conference Wristbands

Wristbands are required to be worn both days by attendees at all events. Broken wristbands can be turned in for a new one. Students who lose wristbands can purchase a new one for \$5.00.

101 Conference: Purple

Blue Conference: Blue

Gold Conference: Gold

Aspire Conference: Orange

Advisors: Hot Pink

Bus Drivers, Chaperones, Guests: Green

Dance

A dance will be held Saturday evening with DJ Dude Walker in Hall C. Students will need to wear their conference t-shirt and their conference wristband for the evening activities and dance. Advisors are asked to be present during the dance to assist in monitoring our members. All attendees will pass through metal detectors and all bags will be searched. For 2024, the dance will feature blacklights, so students are encouraged to accessorize with neon colors to stand out.

Dress Code

Complete FFA official Dress is to be worn during the conference. The conference t-shirt is required during the Saturday evening activities. Wristbands are required to be worn at all times.

FFA Membership

Students attending must be on a chapters FFA membership roster for this year.

FFA Store

The ND FFA Foundation will have the FFA Store open Saturday from 8:00 pm – 10:30 pm and Sunday from 11:00am – 1:00pm. Cash, check, and credit card will be accepted.

Game Night

Students not interested in dancing; a Game Room will be provided – in Hall D during the dance. Students are encouraged to bring school appropriate games to play.

Highlights Document

Use the highlights document to help advertise all the fun that is happening at ND FFA Leadership Conference. Designed with kids in mind, print this off and send home with kids, put on your board, or use the digital copy to share in a school newsletter! The highlights document can be found here: [Leadership Conference | ND FFA Association](#)

Hotels

A block of rooms will not be reserved. Chapters are encouraged to stay at a hotel that is convenient for them. A list of hotels and rates can be found on the [ND FFA website](#).

ND FFA Code of Ethics

[Click here](#) to read the ND FFA Association Code of Ethics.

ND FFA Permission Forms

Students attending ND FFA Leadership Conference must have a completed waiver completed in AET.

Outside Food & Beverages

No outside food and beverages are to be brought into the Bismarck Event Center.

Registration & Conference T-shirts

Pre-registration is due September 16th and can be completed on judging card. *Late registrations will not be allowed as conference materials will be ordered immediately after the registration due date.* No shows will be assessed the registration fee. Conference t-shirts will available and must be picked up for all attendees at registration. Please come prepared with a list of how many t-shirts you need of each size to make the process quicker (feel free to use the card to the right). T-shirts will be handed out on a first come, first serve basis.

Registration Packets

Registration for all conferences will be at the Bismarck Event Center lobby beginning at 10:30am. Registration packets will include the following for each conference:

- Blue: Wristbands
- Gold: Wristbands
- Aspire: Wristbands
- Advisors: Wristbands and wristband color reference sheet
- Guests: Wristbands
- 101: Name Badges and wristbands

_____	FFA Chapter
	Conference T-shirt List
_____	Small
_____	Medium
_____	Large
_____	XL
_____	XXL
_____	XXXL
_____	XXXXL
<i>T-shirts are required dress code at all evening activities.</i>	

Room Checks

Hotel room checks are left up to the chapter and their advisor.

Day of Service Project – Ag Literacy Packathon

The 2024 ND FFA Leadership Conference Community Service Project is Ag Literacy Packathon. Attendees will be involved in creating Ag Literacy Kits designed to educate elementary students across North Dakota about agriculture. Each kit will include all necessary materials for students to explore agricultural concepts and participate in hands-on activities, particularly focusing on growing seeds and plants. This initiative aims to inspire students to cultivate their own food with their families. FFA members will be instrumental in assembling these kits for over 500 students, which will be distributed by North Dakota's Gateway to Science and ND FFA Chapters. Additionally, FFA chapters can request kits for use in their own communities to further educate local elementary students.

- **Request Kits:** FFA Chapters are encouraged to request kits to take home to teach an elementary class in their school. Kits are FREE to ND FFA Chapters however kits are limited. This is a perfect Ag Literacy Program of Activities (POA) activity.
 - You can request kits here: [Ag STEM Kits Request Form \(cognitofoms.com\)](#)
 - Only 250 kits are available to ND FFA Chapters. Chapters who have a student attending Aspire will automatically receive 5 kits. The remaining kits will be available on a first come, first serve basis. **Limit 10 kits/chapter (until gone).** *Chapters who request kits will be asked to provide photos upon*

completion of implementation.

- **The deadline to request kits is September 24th at 11:59pm.**
- POA Resources: [POA | ND FFA Association](#)
- **Don't have enough supplies to implement back home:** Digital copies of the kits will be made available to all ND FFA Chapters as well as a folder with a list of supplies that were purchased. We encourage you to find funding to create additional kits through the day of service mini-grants found here: [Living to Serve Grants | National FFA Organization](#).

Substitutions

If you registered a student for a conference and they cannot attend, you have the option of "selling" that spot to another chapter. If you do this, it is the advisor's responsibility to get the wristband to the student/chapter "buying" the spot. It will also be the responsibility of those advisors to bill the registration fee to the chapter "purchasing" it. You will not be billed by the ND FFA Association.

Substitutions/Name Changes for 101 Conference can be done but you need to notify state staff as soon as you can. Badges for this conference will already have been printed and may not be fixed depending on the amount of notice given for a name change.

Teachers' Lounge

The teachers' lounge is a place for informal sharing of ideas and the opportunity to see other ag teachers that you don't always see. The ND FFA Teachers' Lounge, located in the upper lobby of the Bismarck Event Center, will be the perfect place to hang out and network while students are in their conferences. The teachers' lounge will feature: places to charge your computer/phones, tables to work and network with other advisors, optional teacher programming, Wifi, round tables to host a small district meeting, exclusive teacher freebies, and water station. A schedule is available on the website; otherwise use the lounge for a hangout spot.