



NATIONAL
FFA ORGANIZATION

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FFA.ORG

Congratulations!

Rev. August 2, 2017

Dear American FFA Degree Recipient:

The American FFA Degree is the highest degree the National FFA Organization can bestow upon an FFA member, you are to be commended on your accomplishment. Less than one percent of FFA members earn the American FFA Degree.

Attending Convention?

We hope you will be able to attend the 2017 National FFA Convention & Expo in Indianapolis to be recognized on the stage and receive your certificate and degree key in person. The official dates for the convention are Oct. 25-28, 2017. The following orientation packet will provide all of the necessary information to attend convention and participate in the American FFA Degree activities.

Enclosed in the orientation packet you will find important information and instructions including:

- Confirmation of your name and chapter spelling.
- Convention and housing information.
- American FFA Degree events convention schedule with locations and times.
- Scholarship information.
- Maps and general parking information.
- Shuttle information.
- Special needs request (ADA) information.
- Sponsor information for thank you notes.

We look forward to seeing you in Indianapolis! If you have any questions after reviewing the orientation packet, feel free to contact us at the email address or phone number below.

Unable to Attend Convention?

If you are unable to personally attend the convention your degree key and certificate will be mailed to your state FFA association shortly after convention. Your state staff will get them to you, feel free to contact them in December if you have questions or concerns about receiving your certificate and key.

- Please read the first section of the orientation packet to confirm the spelling of your name and chapter.
- Please DO NOT send a substitute to convention to cross the stage in your place, this only makes the session unnecessarily longer.

Whether you will be able to join us at convention or not congratulations again on your accomplishment.

Sincerely,

Brett Evans
SAE Education Specialist
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317-802-4233

Rosalie Hunsinger
SAE Program Manager
rhunsinger@ffa.org
317-802-4255

Stephanie Kappus
SAE Program Manager
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American FFA Degree Orientation Packet

American FFA Degree Convention Orientation Packet

Spelling Confirmation ***Very important***

Please confirm the spelling of your name and chapter on the American FFA Degree Recipient List. This information will be used for your certificate and other print items. If any of these are incorrect, contact Ms. Rosalie Hunsinger at: rhunsinger@ffa.org before Sept. 5 to make corrections. Any corrections after that date will not be guaranteed, as print items will be started immediately following Sept. 5, 2017.

Convention Registration

American FFA Degree recipients must be logged in to the FFA.org account through which they completed their application in order to register and receive the American FFA Degree registration options. Everyone must register for convention, including American FFA Degree recipients and guests. Each recipient is eligible to register for up to three complimentary passes to attend the eighth general convention session during which the American FFA Degree Ceremony will take place. We encourage you to contact your family, friends, advisors and school administrators and ask about their interest in attending. Please confirm with your FFA chapter advisor and/or state staff to confirm they have not already registered you for convention and/or booked housing before you attempt to register.

DISCOUNTED Early Bird Registration - Tuesday, Sept. 5, 1 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time - Monday, Oct. 3, 2017. I highly encourage you to pre-register online at: <https://www.ffa.org/events/convention/planning#registration>. There are multiple registration options available to you.

Early Bird Full Registration \$55 - \$70	Early Bird Single Day Registration \$32 per day	American FFA Degree Recipient 8th General Session Complimentary Pass	American FFA Degree Session ONLY (8th General Session) \$13.00
<i>Allows access to all non-ticketed convention events and the expo.</i>	<i>Allows access to all non-ticketed convention events and the expo for a single day.</i>	<i>Each degree recipient is eligible to receive up to three complimentary session passes to the American FFA Degree session (eighth general session). These passes allow access to the American Degree session and FFA Shopping Mall but not the expo, other sessions, events or activities.</i>	<i>Allows access to the American FFA Degree Session (8th General Session) and the FFA Shopping Mall but no other venues or events.</i>

Standard Registration – Tuesday, Oct. 3 – 28, 2017, standard registration costs are \$80 full registration, \$40 single day registration, \$17 American FFA Degree Session only pass. You can still register online or you can register at the Indianapolis Convention Center (ICC) - Hall K

Registration and Name Badge Pick up

Regardless of the registration method used you must pick-up your registration name badge in the Indianapolis Convention Center (ICC) - Hall K to be able to enter the session. The onsite registration and name badge pickup location is open:

Wednesday, Oct. 25 8a.m. – 8 p.m.
Thursday, Oct. 26 7 a.m. – 8 p.m.
Friday, Oct. 27 8 a.m. – 8 p.m.
Saturday, Oct. 28 6:30 a.m. – 9 a.m.

Convention Housing

If you have not already arranged housing through your state or FFA chapter click on the following link to look for available housing. Remember you must be signed in to FFA.org with you own account to access this information. Please double check with your FFA chapter advisor and/or state staff to confirm they have not already made housing arrangements which include you. National FFA Convention & Expo Housing Reservations: <https://aws.passkey.com/go/IAMDegree2017> if you need additional assistance contact the FFA Housing Bureau at ffahousing@visitindy.com or 317-262-8191, Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m.–5 p.m. EDT. Tell them you are and American FFA Degree Recipient and provide this code: **IAMDegree2017**



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Convention Dress

All FFA members are asked to be in FFA Official Dress while attending the convention. To cross the stage for the American FFA Degree Ceremony you need to be wearing Official Dress including an Official FFA Jacket. If you do not already have a good jacket, please order one immediately through Shop FFA at 1-888-332-2668. Explain you are an American FFA Degree

Recipient to receive priority handling. To ensure your new jacket arrives to you before convention order by September 15.

American FFA Degree Convention Events

Friday, Oct. 27

6:00 – 8:00 pm

National FFA Alumni Reception with Special Guests American FFA Degree Recipients

Marriott Ballroom (Salon I-X on the 2nd floor)

Marriott Hotel, 50 S. Maryland Street, Indianapolis, Ind. 46204

Optional - Ticketed Event – Event Ticket Purchase Required

There is no formal program; you are invited to mix and mingle with the FFA Alumni and the American FFA Degree sponsors. Light refreshments will be served. FFA Official Dress is recommended but not required. Take the opportunity to meet and learn more about the FFA Alumni and how you can be involved. Say thank you to and learn about opportunities with the American FFA Degree sponsor organizations. Arrive and leave anytime between 6:00 – 8:00 pm. Tickets to this event are limited and sold first come first serve. American FFA Degree Recipients may register for one complimentary ticket, additional tickets are available for \$15.00 each.

Saturday, October 28

American FFA Degree Ceremony – 8th General Convention Session *Lucas Oil Stadium – 500 S. Capitol Ave., Indianapolis, Ind. 46225*

6:30 – 7:45 am

Doors Open – Reserved seat for each American FFA Degree Recipient on stadium floor. Open seating for Guests. A reserve seating chart for recipients will be posted on the American FFA Degree webpage at www.ffa.org mid-September. Staff members will also be on the floor to help you find your seat.

7:45 – 11:30 am

Session Starts

American FFA Degree recipients who are present and seated in their specified seat will receive their degree key and certificate on stage. Recipients who arrive late or are missing when their turn happens will not be presented on stage. Degrees will be presented in Alphabetical order by state and alphabetical order by last name within state (*Alabama (A-Z) to Wyoming (A-Z)*).

American FFA Degree Booklet

The commemorative American FFA Degree Booklet lists all of the American FFA Degree Recipients by state. To ensure that every attending candidate receives one they will be handed out behind the stage. Extra copies for candidates desiring them will be available upon request.

American FFA Degree Stage Photo Information

American FFA Degree recipients will have their photo taken twice, backstage and as they walk across stage. These pictures are provided by Grad Images. Picture proof information will be sent via email to the address listed on your degree application. If you wish to change this email address contact Ms. Rosalie Hunsinger at rhunsinger@ffa.org BEFORE Sept 5. After Sept 5 you must contact Grad Images directly to make email address changes. Please allow 7-10 business days after convention for proofs to be delivered. If you have questions about the photos please contact Grad

Images directly by visiting their website at: www.gradimages.com or contacting their customer service department at 1-800-261-2576.



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American FFA Degree News Release

Let your town know about your accomplishment. A news release template has been prepared for you or your chapter to customize and submit to your local media. Download the news release template from the American FFA Degree webpage at

FFA.org by first logging in to FFA.org and then clicking on this link: <https://www.ffa.org/participate/awards/american-ffa-degree> look in the right hand column under Award Results.

Sponsor Engagement

The American FFA Degree/ and American Star Awards are sponsored by

Case IH

Mr. Tom Dean
Senior Director, Marketing and
Communications
621 State Street
Racine, I 52402
Twitter: @Case_IH

Elanco

Ms. Amanda Kephart
Director of Marketing
2500 Innovation Way
Greenfield, IN 46140
Twitter: @Elanco

Syngenta

Ms. Shelly Olds
Senior Community Engagement
Manager
410 Swing Road
P.O. Box 18300
Greensboro, NC 27419
Twitter: @SyngentaU

Without their financial commitment the National FFA Organization would not be able to provide recognition to our members. It is vital to the continued success of this program that we recognize the support and encouragement of our sponsors. We kindly request you take a moment to write a thank you note to each of them. Please note that Twitter handles have been provided should you wish to simply Tweet your thanks instead of sending a note by regular mail.

Scholarships

National FFA Alumni College Scholarship Drawing - American FFA Degree recipients who are National FFA Alumni members will be entered into a drawing for a \$1,000 college scholarship at the National FFA Convention & Expo. All degree recipients are eligible to receive up to five free years of National FFA Alumni membership but you must verify or activate your membership by 5:00 p.m. EST Sept 26, 2017 to be included in the drawing. [Click here](#) for complete directions to verify or activate your free National FFA Alumni membership. For additional questions please contact the National FFA Alumni Association at alumni@FFA.org or 317-802-6060.

National FFA Scholarships - Not all but many of the National FFA Scholarships are still available to members who have graduated from high school but maintain their FFA membership. Get more information about applying for a scholarship through the [National FFA Scholarship Program](#).

Maps, General Parking & Shuttles

Please visit the Convention & Expo site for maps, parking and shuttle information. Check back frequently as this site is updated when changes are made. <https://www.ffa.org/events/conventionandexpo>

ADA Compliance

If you have mobility issues or need special accommodations as outlined under the Americans with Disabilities Act, please complete the [Special Needs Request Form](#) on FFA.org and submit it to Jim Armbruster at jarmbruster@ffa.org by August 15.

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