

# [ NEW JERSEY FFA

New Jersey Department of Agriculture | Office of Food, Agriculture & Natural Resources Education  
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*In cooperation with the New Jersey Department of Education*

**TO:** New Jersey Teachers of Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources and FFA Members

**FROM:** Erin E. Noble, State FFA Advisor and State FFA Executive Board

**RE: Leadership Experience and Development (L.E.A.D.)**

- Chapter Officer Leadership Training (COLT)
- Leadership and Opportunities Conference (LOC)
- State Greenhand Conference (SGC)

**Friday, October 6, 2023 12:00 pm - Saturday, October 7, 2023, 4:30 pm**

**LOCATION** DoubleTree by Hilton Somerset Hotel and Conference Center (*directions on last page*)

**DATE:** August 8, 2023

The 2023-2024 State FFA Executive Board is excited to announce – **Leadership Experience and Development. (L.E.A.D.)**. L.E.A.D. is a three-conference experience meeting the needs of **ALL** FFA members!

The NJ FFA Association welcomes ALL FFA members to attend L.E.A.D. Here's how...



- **State Greenhand Conference (SGC):** All first-year FFA members in 7-10<sup>th</sup> grade **ONLY** are invited to attend State Greenhand Conference (SGC) where past state officers will help participants discover FFA opportunities, plan for Supervised Agricultural Experience programs, develop relationship building skills, and develop career, personal and leadership goals. By the end of the conference, participants will be awarded certificates of completion for meeting the requirements of the Greenhand FFA Degree.
- **Impact Conference:** Remaining FFA members (including chapter officers) are invited to attend the Impact Conference where students will explore impact, vision, strengths, innovation, inspiration, and change. Impact will have two tracks – Chapter Officer Leadership Training (COLT) and Leadership and Opportunities Conference (LOC).
  - **Chapter Officer Leadership Training (COLT):** Chapter FFA Officers are invited to participate in two additional workshops exclusive for chapter officers – Chapter Operations Challenge and POA Challenge. State Officers will facilitate these additional workshops and spend time bonding with the participants.

- **Leadership and Opportunities Conference (LOC):** Members who are not chapter officers are invited to participate in two additional workshops exclusive for growing members. Past State FFA Officers will facilitate these additional workshops and help the members unlock the possibilities within the FFA.

In addition to enhancing leadership skills, FFA members will meet other members from New Jersey's 37 FFA Chapters and connect with the state officer team, past state FFA officers and New Jersey FFA Alumni & Supporters. During COLT, advisors will play an integral role in working with the chapter officers to develop the POA activity goals and timeline. Advisor workshops and meetings are scheduled throughout the weekend.

#### CONFERENCE FEES

LEADERSHIP RESOURCES:	\$40.00
MEALS & Other INCIDENTALS:	\$115.00
<b>TOTAL (without lodging):</b>	<b>\$155.00</b> – to be paid to “Treasurer, State of New Jersey”

LODGING (per room):	\$159.33 (INCLUSIVE of tax) – to be arranged/paid directly to DoubleTree by Hilton Somerset Hotel and Conference Center
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The \$40 Leadership Resources fee covers conference materials. The \$115 Meals and Other Incidentals fee covers three meals (Friday Dinner, Saturday Breakfast, and Saturday Lunch), a 2023-2024 state theme t-shirt, conference room fees and other costs to run the conference. Lodging is separate and will depend on the number of rooms needed. **Please make lodging reservations DIRECTLY with the hotel NO LATER than September 15.** Failure to secure rooms by this date may result in the inability to secure lodging rooms and/or a higher room rate. Payment for lodging rooms MUST be made directly to the hotel. **To reserve rooms, please call 732-509-4412 and ask for Karen DeFreitas-Lee. Her email is [Karen.DeFreitas-Lee@hilton.com](mailto:Karen.DeFreitas-Lee@hilton.com). Please reference “Office of Agricultural Education/FFA” when contacting the hotel.** Participants can be roomed with up to four individuals per room. **Please submit your Participant List by Thursday, September 15, 2023 by completing this form: <https://form.jotform.us/NJFFA/LEAD>. PLEASE forward a check in the amount listed on your invoice to: TREASURER, STATE OF NEW JERSEY with “FFA LEAD” identified in the memo section prior to October 6. Payment for lodging rooms will need to be made directly to the hotel.** Chapters with Basic Affiliation will receive up to a \$140 discount on LEAD Leadership Resources. Chapters with Basic and Blue Affiliation will receive up to a \$280 discount on LEAD Leadership Resources. These discounts will be taken off on the electronic invoice.

#### IMPORTANT!

**In addition to submitting a participant list, each student attending must submit the Student Code of Conduct Waiver PRIOR to the event. The Student Code of Conduct can be found in the Participant Form (<https://form.jotform.us/NJFFA/LEAD>). You can print as many copies as you need. Advisors/Chaperones are required to complete the Advisor Statement of Assurances (also found in the Participant Form).**

The conference will begin with check-in at 12:00 pm Friday and end at approximately 4:30 pm on Saturday. **Official dress is required for the first session. It is recommended that your students arrive in official dress.**

#### IMPORTANT LEAD FACTS:

1. Conference sign-in is 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. Lunch is on your own.
2. LEAD will kick-off with a joint Impact and SGC session promptly at 1:00 p.m. on Friday. LEAD will conclude with a wrap-up session on Saturday. Dinner will NOT be served on Saturday night. Members and advisors must come and stay the entire time.

3. Workshops are designed for dynamic participation where every member will be engaged in discussion, activities and interaction.
4. Awards for each conference will be presented to recognize leadership skills evident during the weekend. Award recipients will be recognized at the conclusion of each respective conference for their achievements.
5. Official dress is required during the first session and up until dinner. After dinner, students are encouraged to wear business casual clothes. Members will be asked to wear the State Theme t-shirt they receive on Saturday as causal dress. Please see the definition of business causal and official dress below.
6. Every member and advisor need to bring:
  - Toiletries (soap, shampoo, toothbrush, etc.)
  - FFA Manual (recent)
  - Pen/ Pencil
  - Official FFA Dress (see description of attire below)
  - Recreational clothing for team building challenge (appropriate footwear is mandatory - no flip flops)
  - Other personal items
  - One Computer/Tablet per chapter – COLT participants only (please ensure students have AET access to the chapter's POA BEFORE arriving to LEAD)

*Note: There is no need for tablets, gaming systems, TVs, or other expensive electronic equipment (unless otherwise noted)*
7. Friday night activities include a dance. Members are encouraged to bring a costume. Prizes will be awarded.
8. Teachers are responsible for their students at all times. No student should be in the hotel rooms during L.E.A.D. sessions.
9. Teachers will play an integral role in the conference and professional development workshops will be provided.

## DESCRIPTION of ATTIRE

### **Official Dress (OD):**

- ✓ An official FFA jacket zipped to the top
- ✓ Black slacks and black socks or black skirt and hosiery
- ✓ White collared blouse or white collared shirt
- ✓ Official FFA tie or Official FFA scarf
- ✓ Black dress shoes with a closed heel and toe
- ✓ Official garb of recognized religions may be worn with official dress

### **Business Causal (BC):**

Includes khakis type pants, and a polo or button-down shirt. No jeans.

### **Casual Dress (CD):**

Includes everything except tank tops, halter-tops, extremely short shorts or short skirts and cut-offs. NO flip flops! Please use your best judgment. This is not a fashion show.

## **DIRECTIONS TO DoubleTree by Hilton Somerset Hotel and Conference Center**

*200 Atrium Drive, Somerset, New Jersey 08873-4197*

### **Driving Directions**

From the North using NJ-31 S and I-78 E: Get on I-78 E/US-22 E in Clinton Township from NJ-31 S. Continue on I-78 E. Take exit 29 for I-287 S toward US-202/US-206 S/Somerville. Follow I-287 S to Easton Ave in Franklin Township. Exit from I-287 S onto Easton Ave. Continue on Easton Ave. Turn left onto Davidson Ave. Turn left onto Atrium Dr. Destination will be on the left.

From the North using I-287: Get on at I-80 E in Rockaway Township from NJ-15 S. Take exit 43 for I-287 S/Morristown S to Easton Ave. in Franklin Township. Exit from I-287 S. Continue on Easton Ave. Turn left onto Davidson Ave. Turn left onto Atrium Dr. Destination will be on the left.

From the South using the New Jersey Turnpike: Get on the NJ Turnpike North. Take exit 9 to merge onto NJ-18 N. Take exit toward County Road 527/Easton Ave/So Bound Bk. Stay on Easton Ave. Turn left onto Davidson Ave. Turn left onto Atrium Dr. Destination will be on the left.

From the South using the Garden State Parkway: Get on Garden State Parkway North. Take exit 127 for NJ- 440 N toward I-287 N. Continue onto I-287 N to exit 10 for County Rd 527 N/Easton Ave toward S Bound Brook. Stay on Easton Ave. Turn left onto Davidson Ave. Turn left onto Atrium Dr. Destination will be on the left.

From the South using Atlantic City Expy W and I-295 N: Get on Atlantic City Expy W. Take exit 1B for I-295 N. Continue onto I-295 to exit 67A for US-1 N toward New Brunswick. Slight right toward Sand Hills Road. Turn left onto Sand Hills Road. Continue to S Middlebush Road. Turn left onto Amwell Road. Turn right onto Cedar Grove Lane. Turn left onto Pierce St. Turn right onto Atrium Drive. Destination will be on the left.

