

# 2023 ND FFA Leadership Conference General Schedule



NORTH DAKOTA

## Saturday, September 16, 2023

- 10:30 am Registration for all Conferences by Advisors  
Bismarck Event Center – Lobby – Door E42
- 11:45 am Start time for Aspire Conference  
Bismarck Event Center – Prairie Rose Room 106
- 12:00 pm Start time for Blue, Gold, and 101 Conference  
Bismarck Event Center – Blue: Hall B, 101: Hall C, and Gold: Hall D
- 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.**

- 7:45 pm Community Service Project – TBD  
Bismarck Event Center – Hall D
- 8:00 pm Doors Open
- 8:00 pm -  
10:30 pm FFA Store  
Bismarck Event Center – Outside Hall D
- 8:00 pm Game Night \*Bring Games (Concessions Available)  
Bismarck Event Center – Hall D
- 8:30 pm Dance (Concessions Available)  
Bismarck Event Center – Hall C
- 11:00 pm Social/Dance and Game Night Concludes
- 11:15 pm Bismarck Event Center Closes

## Sunday, September 17, 2023

- 8:00 – 9:30 am Church Services (organized on your own)
- 9:30 am All Conferences Resume  
Bismarck Event Center
- 11:00 am -  
1:00 pm FFA Store  
Bismarck Event Center
- 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: 08/17/2023



## *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 2023, a wedding will be held in Hall A. 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 16<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 – 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 5<sup>th</sup>, 2022.* 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. This exclusive event will be facilitated by former state officers and will also have the students working as team leaders with the 101 conferences/food packaging event. 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 down 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 D – 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: Pink

Bus Drivers & Chaperones: 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.

## ***Dress Code***

Complete FFA official Dress is to be worn during the conference. The conference t-shirts 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. Games will not be provided.

## ***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 5<sup>th</sup>, 2022* 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 be 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 in order to make the process quicker. They will be handed out on a first come, first serve basis.

## ***Registration Packets***

Registration check in for all conferences will be at the Bismarck Event Center lobby beginning at 10:30am. Registration packets will include: Wristbands for the Blue, Gold, and Aspire Conferences, wristbands for all advisors, name badges and wristbands for 101 Conference, and a wristband color cheat sheet.

## ***Room Checks***

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

## ***Service Project***

The 2023 ND FFA Leadership Conference Community Service Project is Change for Hunger Coin War: East Side vs. West Side. The State FFA Officers are challenging chapters to donate money to be donated to the Great Plains Food Bank. The side that donates the most money is declared the winner. Chapters who participated on the winning side will be entered into a drawing to win a 'State Officer FFA Meeting Takeover'. The chapter in the state that donates the most money will receive the coveted baby bison...with a twist!

- State Officer FFA Meeting Takeover: The chapter who wins this will schedule a FFA meeting and notify the state office. State officers will be sent to attend the meeting and host games to be held after your meeting is complete. They will also bring approximately \$150 in door prizes to be given out at your FFA meeting. The advisor of the winning chapter must schedule the FFA meeting prior to May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024.
- How can chapters donate:
  - Prior to conference: Chapters can mail a check to the ND FFA Foundation at PO Box 6022 Bismarck ND 58504. The check should indicate that the money donated is for the 2023 Leadership Conference Service Project. Please notify Nikki Fideldy-Doll ([nfideldy-doll@nd.gov](mailto:nfideldy-doll@nd.gov)) if you mail a check.
  - Venmo: Chapters, members, and supporters can venmo donations to @NorthDakotaFFA. In the memo, please indicate that the money is for the 2023 Leadership Conference Service Project and which chapter the money is associated with.
  - At the conference: Collection buckets will be available at registration for money brought on site. Coins, paper money, and checks are welcome on site.

## ***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 Rebecca ([rduben@nd.gov](mailto:rduben@nd.gov)) 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 have places to charge your computer, tables to work and network with other advisors, optional teacher programming, Wifi, and water station. A schedule is available on the website; otherwise use the lounge for a hangout spot.