

Wisconsin Association of FFA Leadership Development Events

The Wisconsin Association of FFA makes available seven events for Wisconsin FFA members to participate in. These seven competitions include Creed Speaking, Prepared Public Speaking, Extemporaneous Public Speaking, Parliamentary Procedure, Discussion Meet, Quiz Bowl and Employment Skills.

Levels of Competition

Local Competitions: Leadership Development Events begin at the local level. All local competitions are under the direction of the local FFA advisors who set local policy for how members are selected to represent their FFA chapter. Each local chapter is allowed to send two competitors/teams to the district competition except for Parliamentary Procedure where only one team is allowed.

District Competitions: District competitions should be held between January 20 and February 20 at the school of the designated district host. There will be 30 district competitions held. District competitions are typically held immediately after school at the host chapter's school. These competitions depending on the number competitors and efficiency of the competition may last until 6:30 - 7:00 p.m. All competitors must follow the rules in each of the specific speaking competitions as set forth by the Wisconsin Association of FFA. Two individuals/teams will be selected to advance to the sectional competition for each of the events.

Sectional Competitions: Sectional competitions are held during the month of March at the school of the State Officer from the corresponding section. There will be 10 sectional competitions held. Sectional competitions are typically held immediately after school at the host chapter's school. These competitions depending on the number of competitors and efficiency of the competition may last until 6:30 - 7:00 p.m.

All competitions must follow the rules in each of the specific speaking competitions as set forth by the Wisconsin Association of FFA. One individual/team will advance in each event to the state level of competition.

State Level Competitions: State level competition is held in conjunction with the State FFA Convention. The state competitions will be coordinated by the State FFA Executive Director with the help of event managers and the state FFA president. All competitors must follow the rules in each of the specific speaking competitions as set for by the Wisconsin Association of FFA. Each competitor will begin at the semi-final level. There will be one representative from each section. From the semi-finals, four individuals/teams will be selected to advance to the final round.

At the state level, it is determined on a rotational basis of which sections compete against each other. One year the even and odd sections will be grouped together. The following year Section 1-5 and Section 6-10 will compete in the semi final round. Thus the next year it would rotate back to the even and odd sections competing in the semi-final round.

National Level Competitions: The following competitions advance to national competition at the National FFA Convention - Creed Speaking, Prepared Public Speaking, Extemporaneous Public Speaking, Parliamentary Procedure and Employment Skills. Individuals/teams selected as State Winners will advance to the National Competitions. All rules set forth by the National FFA Organization must be followed at this level. All competitors must be certified by the State FFA Executive Director by July 1. If an individual is unable to compete at Nationals, the State Runner-Up would be offered the opportunity to compete.

It is the responsibility of the state winner to coordinate their travel to the National FFA Convention and the national competition. Each state winner will receive a packet of information with the national competition details after they are fully certified to compete through the National FFA office.

Hosting District and Sectional Leadership Development Events

All FFA chapters are expected to host a district event when it becomes their turn in alphabetical rotation (by Post Office Box Town/City) within their district. If, for any reason, a chapter feels that they cannot host when it is their turn, a chapter may request to the State FFA Executive Director and State FFA Board of Directors to be skipped in the rotation. If a school who is scheduled to host a district competition has a new instructor, that chapter would automatically be skipped over, so a new instructor does not have this responsibility placed on their shoulders during their first year of teaching.

The underlined chapter in each district on the annual list of updated chapters is the host school and in charge of the district event. The event may be held at an alternate location if mutually agreed upon by the chapters in that district, but the underlined chapter is still in charge of the event. State officers will be available to assist district hosts as long as their schedule works out with the scheduled event date.

It is the responsibility of the district host to determine the date of the event, notify chapters in their district, select judges for each competition and coordinate all material provided to them in the District Speaking Event Host materials posted on the Wisconsin FFA website and provided by the Wisconsin FFA Center.

The sectional speaking competition is hosted by the current state FFA officer and their advisor in each of the 10 sections. It is the responsibility of the state FFA officers and their advisor to select a date, notify chapters in their sections, select judges and coordinate all material provided to them in the Sectional Speaking Event Host materials posted on the Wisconsin FFA website and provided by the Wisconsin FFA Center.

Philosophy of National FFA Career and Leadership Development Events

The National FFA Organization is dedicated to organizing experiences that will meet the future needs of students while accomplishing the current purposes of agricultural education. The primary goal of career development events is to develop individual responsibilities, foster teamwork and promote communication while recognizing the value of ethical competition and individual achievement.

The activities in each career development event:

- include problem solving, critical thinking and teamwork skills, where appropriate.
- encourage appreciation for diversity by reducing barriers to participation among members.
- develop general leadership and recognize individual and team achievement.
- promote concentrated focus on future needs of members and society.

The National FFA Organization assumes the leadership role in developing and continuously improving relevant FFA career development events. National career development events should reflect instruction that currently takes place in the entire agricultural education program, including classroom instruction, laboratory instruction, individualized instruction and/or supervised agricultural experience. Career development events and awards are intended to be an outgrowth of instruction. Also, it is appropriate for the national organization to develop career development events and awards that stimulate instruction in emerging areas that reflect both current and future community, national and global work force needs. National FFA Career Development Events should be developed with significant input from FFA members, teachers, partners, respective industry sponsors and others involved in agricultural education. The National FFA Organization continues to encourage accessibility and provide opportunities for achievement and recognition for students with diverse backgrounds.

Career development events that include team activities should be based on cooperation and teamwork while recognizing the value of competition and individual achievement. Where appropriate, team activities will be included that require two or more members from one chapter working cooperatively.

Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources (AFNR) Career Cluster Content Standards

Agriculture is a highly technical and ever-changing industry upon which everyone is dependent. In order to maintain agriculture as the nation's number one industry, it is crucial to understand the importance of agrisciences, marketing strategies, safe food production and continuous research. Strong, relevant agriscience programs are one way to maintain the nation's agricultural edge.

The National AFNR Career Cluster Content Standards were developed as part of the National FFA 10 x 15 project to provide state agricultural education leaders and teachers with a forward thinking guide for what students should know and be able to do through the study of agriculture. The National AFNR Career Cluster Content Standards should be used as a guide to develop well-planned curriculum in agriscience education to be delivered to students throughout the country. For a complete copy of the AFNR Career Cluster Content Standards please visit www.agedlearning.org.

National FFA Organization has adopted the AFNR Career Cluster Content Standards and integrated them into all national award and recognition programs for the benefit of the members, school administration and agriculture as a whole. Details outlining the incorporation of the standards in career development events can be found at the end of each event chapter in the National FFA CDE handbook.

Eligibility of Participants

A. Each participant must be a current, bona fide, dues paying FFA member in good standing with the local chapter, state FFA association and the National FFA Organization during the school year in which the participant is competing.

B. The participant in FFA Leadership Development Events must:

1. Be a high school FFA member; high school refers to grades 9-12. (A graduating senior is considered eligible to compete in state and national career development events up to and including his/her first national convention following graduation.)
2. Be a middle school FFA member; middle school refers to grades 7 and 8 for those competitions indicated as eligible for middle school participation.
3. Have qualified as a 7th, 8th or 9th grade member to participate in the Creed speaking event.
4. While in high school, be enrolled in at least one agricultural education course during the school year and/or follow a planned course of study; either course must include a supervised agricultural experience program, the objective of which is preparation for an agricultural career.

The National FFA Constitution provides flexibility to meet the needs of students enrolled in non-traditional programs. For this purpose a student needs to be enrolled in at least one agricultural education course during the year they participant in an event.

5. If a student moves to a different chapter or a different state once a he/she has qualified to move to the next level of competition in a career development event, that student may be allowed to compete in the event with the school he/she qualified with during the qualifying year.

C. A chapter is allowed to have 2 members from their chapter participate in all individuals competitions as well as 2 teams in the quiz bowl competition. Only 1 team per chapter is allowed to participate in the Parliamentary Procedure competition.

D. FFA members are allowed to compete in no more than **two** individual events and **one** team event at the District level of competition during the current school year. Once a member has won a State Level Competition in a particular event, they cannot compete in that event again. No student may participate in more than one National level FFA Career Development Event each year if they advance to that level.

E. A state speaking competition winner may not compete again in the same speaking event in succeeding years. A student may not participate more than once in the same official National FFA Career Development Event if they participate in the National Level Competition.

F. Members of the state winning team may not participate in any team parliamentary procedure event in subsequent years. However, a team's secretary may serve as a demonstrator, or a demonstrator may serve as the team secretary in one subsequent year.

G. Members cannot compete in other district or sectional competitions other than their own. If a member cannot attend a scheduled district or sectional event, the member cannot go to another district or section to compete. District and sectional hosts can do whatever possible to accommodate members who may have a conflict with the event date, but the host is not required to hold a separate competition for those individuals. Due to the nature of this competition, inclement weather, illness or other events could interfere with the event date. However, to readjust the scheduled competition is very difficult and the competition will go forth as scheduled, unless all the schools in that district or section agree to accommodate these individuals.

Disqualification

A. Participating in more than 2 individual and/or more than 1 team event. Breaking of this rule will also disqualify the entire team if the infraction occurs with the team event.

B. Not submitting the proper bibliography for a prepared manuscript.

C. Proof that plagiarism has occurred.

D. Any communication, verbal or non-verbal, between participants during a career development event will be sufficient cause to eliminate the team member involved from the career development event. This includes sharing questions asked during competition or other information that would give someone a distinct advantage in the event. The only exception to this would be communications between team members during the team activity portion of a given career development event.

E. Any assistance given to a team member from any source other than the career development event officials or assistants will be sufficient cause to eliminate the team from the career development event.

F. Event superintendents may stop any participant if they deem their manner to be hazardous either to themselves or others. Such action shall deem the individuals disqualified for that section of the career development event.

G. Participants who start an event and do not complete the event without notifying event officials at the time of departure will be disqualified. This can affect the overall team rank and position. In some events this will also disqualify the entire team.

H. Participants will not be allowed to utilize personal electronic communication devices, other than those approved by the event officials, during the entire course of the event. Participants who access personal electronic communication devices without prior approval of the event officials will be disqualified.

I. No participant shall gain access to real materials that will be utilized by the event committee during competition. Any team, participant, advisor or coach reported and proven to do so will be disqualified from the national event.

Confidential Information

Labeled as Confidential Information is the necessary information to complete the various speaking events which only the judges can view. This information includes Creed questions, Extemporaneous Speaking

topics, Parliamentary Procedure items of business, abilities and questions, selected Discussion Meet topics and Quiz Bowl questions.

This Confidential Information is generated from the office of the Wisconsin FFA Executive Director and provided to district and sectional hosts as well as the state FFA convention event managers and superintendents. Once a competition is completed ALL Confidential Information must be returned to the Wisconsin FFA Center. Advisors and competitors are not allowed to reproduce this information.

If a host, advisor, member or other individual is found copying or using this information for any other purpose than the actual competition, further action will be taken by the Wisconsin FFA Board of Directors. Disqualification of the individual or the chapter of the individual in question may occur if confidential information is abused and not properly handled as is ethically appropriate and as requested by the Wisconsin FFA Center.

Awards

The State FFA Association will provide awards for district winners and runners-up funded through the Wisconsin FFA Foundation, Inc. as funding is available. Awards will also be provided to sectional and state winners. More award plaques, pins and money can be provided to contestants as more sponsors are found through the Wisconsin FFA Foundation, Inc. Speaking competition projects are currently available for funding.

Advancement to Next Level of Competition

In order for an individual and/or team to advance to the next level of competition (ie. from district to sectional; from sectional to state), an individual and/or team must be present at the qualifying competition in order to advance even if there is only one or two individuals or teams entered to compete. They must technically “qualify” onsite to advance to the next level. When qualifying as a team, the team must have the minimum number of participants on the representing team at the competition in order to qualify to advance.

A team is allowed to make the necessary substitutions throughout the various levels of competition, however, they must always have at least the minimum number of team members and not exceed the maximum number of members on a team in order to advance.

If either the first or second place individual/team depending upon the level of competition cannot compete in the next level of competition, the next individual/team in line will be asked to compete.

Contestants will advance from their respective districts to the Sectional Event. If a district does not produce two contestants eligible to send on to the sectional event in any event, those spots will be given to contestants from another district who did not receive first or second place. If there is one spot open to fill and two contestants from different districts both in third place, both 3rd place contestants/teams from the different districts would advance resulting in 7 contestants/teams in the Sectional Event.

• **Example 1:** District 1 had only one creed speaker. District 2 had two creed speakers and District 3 had three creed speakers. The third place contestant from District 3 would now have the chance to participate in the sectional event because District 1 left a spot vacant.

• **Example 2:** District 1 had only one creed speaker. District 2 had three creed speakers and District 3 had four creed speakers. Both third place contestants from District 2 and 3 would now have a chance to participate in the sectional speaking event and the event will have a seventh contestant. **Should one of these 7 creed speakers cancel the sectional creed speaking event would revert to 6 participants. If a 2nd creed speaker cancels the 4th creed speaker from District 3 could then advance (provided deadline had not passed).

The Sectional Creed Speaking Event would still have 6 participants.***

Vacancies can be filled from other Districts up to one week prior to the Sectional Speaking Event date. Vacancies can be filled from within the same district up to the Sectional Speaking Event date.

It is the responsibility of the District Host Chapter to provide the necessary materials to the FFA Center for this to become a reality at their Sectional Event.

District Host chapters need to make sure the following judges' materials are returned to the FFA Center as quickly as possible:

1. Final ranking (1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, etc.) of each participant in every event
2. Sum of the Rank for each contestant/team that participated in Creed, Prepared, Extemporaneous, Discussion Meet, Employment Skills and Parliamentary Procedure events
3. For Quiz Bowl the Chapter Head-to-Head Tally Score Sheets for all brackets that were used

If these materials are not returned to the FFA Center, members in your district that placed 3rd and possibly even 4th will not be given the opportunity to fill the vacant 2nd and/or 1st place individual/team speaking events advancing to the Sectional level.

Substitutions

Substitutions are allowed on the quiz bowl and parliamentary procedure teams when moving from one event level to the next. Students can be replaced or added on a team with students who may have not have competed at preceding levels of competitions. However there must always be the number of students that fall within the eligibility requirements of that team (3-5 members for quiz bowl and 5-7 for parliamentary procedure).

If an individual in an individual speaking event is unable to advance to the next level of competition, the student must inform the Wisconsin FFA Center and the next student that was ranked in the competition will be invited to participate in the next level of competition. No substitutions from a chapter are allowed in individual events.

Proper Official Dress

Participants are expected to observe the National FFA Code of Ethics and the proper use of the FFA jacket during career development events. (Please reference the latest edition of the Official FFA Manual.) Proper Official Dress is required for all speaking competitions with an exception in the Junior High Quiz Bowl Competition at the District and Section Levels.

Proper Official Dress consists of the following:

Males: Official FFA Jacket zipped to the top, black slacks, black socks, black dress shoes, a white collared-shirt with official FFA tie.

Females: Official FFA Jacket zipped to the top, black skirts or pants are acceptable, white-collared blouse with official FFA blue scarf, black dress shoes with a closed heel and toe, black nylon hosiery. The skirt is to be at least knee length, hemmed evenly across the bottom, with a slit no longer than two inches above the knee, excluding the kick pleat. (Taken from the FFA Official Manual page 21).

In looking proper in the Official FFA dress, a member should:

- Look neat in their appearance with shirts tucked in and ties and scarves tied properly.

Policy has been updated that an “open door” to those who want to view competitions is allowed. However, no one can enter or leave the room during a participant’s performance. If an open door procedure is used at

the event site, there **MUST** be a holding room for competitors in the Creed and Quiz Bowl competitions as the same questions are used for all participants.

If a district event wishes to have a more closed door policy that would have to be decided by the advisors in attendance at that event. What this would mean is that for individuals who wish to watch a member/team compete, that once the person watching enters the room to listen to a competitor, they must stay in the room for the entire competition. No one is to leave the room once they have heard a competitor except for the contestant themselves or no audience is allowed.

Accessibility for All Students

All special needs requests must be made to the District, Sectional and State level hosts/coordinators so that appropriate documentation and arrangements may be considered. Last minute notification may cause problems for the host to provide the needed arrangements. Students needing an interpreter or other professional service are asked to have their home school provide such an individual who would accompany the participant to the competition.

Rules and Procedures Review

State FFA rules for speaking competitions will be reviewed annually by the State FFA Executive Director to keep current with any changes forwarded from the National FFA Organization. Rules and procedures may be revised to address concerns or changes in the various events.

Every five years, a group of FFA advisors will review all speaking events for any changes to the current speaking events. These recommendations will be presented to the State FFA Board of Directors for acceptance or rejection. The State FFA Board of Directors has the right to forward any rule changes to the delegates at the State FFA Convention for a final vote.

The State FFA Board of Directors will give final approval of the addition of any new speaking competitions either forwarded from the National FFA Organization or recommended from FFA state officers and/or advisors. They will also give final approval for any major changes recommended in rules or procedures.

Event	Official Dress	Participants Per Team	Participants Per Chapter at Districts	State Winner Advances to Nationals
Creed	Yes	1	2	Yes
Discussion Meet	Yes	1	2	No
Extemporaneous Speaking	Yes	1	2	Yes
Employment Skills	Yes	1	2	Yes
Parliamentary Procedure	Yes	5-7	1 team	Yes
Prepared Speaking	Yes	1	2	Yes
Quiz Bowl	Not required at Districts; Recommended at Sectionals; Required at State	3-5	2 teams	No