



## **CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF THE FUTURE FARMERS OF AMERICA**

TO: FFA Chapter Advisors

FROM: Mrs. Jasmine Standridge, State FFA Leadership Development Coordinator  
Mrs. Trisha Chapman, State FFA Membership Services Director  
Mr. Hugh Mooney, Assistant State FFA Advisor

**SUBJECT: 2026 MADE FOR EXCELLENCE CONFERENCES**

Once again, we are pleased to offer the second program in our leadership and personal growth continuum, Made for Excellence (MFE) for our second-year members. Students must be enrolled in an agricultural education course to participate in this program, which targets high school sophomores.

### **Made For Excellence**

MFE is all about a student understanding who they are and how they can build trust, show vulnerability, and give empathy to develop relationships to ultimately influence those around them. This conference is about "WE: knowing that leadership starts by first believing in ourselves in order to build our confidence to then serve others."

**Who:** Sophomores

**When:** 9 Conferences in January and February

**Dress:** Day 1 – CA FFA Official Dress; Day 2 – Conference T-shirt

**What:** Each student will:

- Define leadership and six different leadership truths
- Develop five core values to help guide life decisions
- Explore how to continually build leadership as a skill over time
- Evaluate and improve self-integrity
- Practice three ways to build lasting relationships
- Evaluate the message the agriculture industry portrays through different forms of media
- Walk away with three specific practices to implement after MFE

**Hotel Reservations:** FFA advisors are responsible for booking hotel rooms needed directly with the hotel. California FFA has organized a block of rooms for each conference on a first-come, first-served basis. Hotel block information is sent out to each group by the Leadership Development Coordinator once the conference is full or by 4:00 PM on the day registration opens. After the first day of registration, all hotel booking information will be added on each of the conference's individual registration page on calaged.org. Once the hotel block is full, chapters will need to look for lodging at neighboring hotels.

A few benefits of advisors booking their own rooms include:

- FFA Advisors are not required to identify student names when registering
- FFA Advisors will have more control of their own rooming lists

**Electronic Check-In/ Registration.** Computer-based check in for chapters on site with the Leadership Development Coordinator or designated state staff member. Please know how many students you brought for each conference and how many advisors; you do not need student names.

**Registration:**

Conferences for 2026 will be hosted at 7 locations, delivering 9 conferences throughout the state (the list of sites and dates are on Calaged.org > Events > Integrated Leadership Conferences > Made for Excellence.)

**To qualify for the EARLY registration cost of \$110 (includes a Judging Card fee per participant), an advisor must register online via Judging Card by November 30, 2025. Registrations submitted after the early registration deadline will pay the full registration cost of \$135 per student which includes the \$25 late fee from California FFA. Advisors and chaperones are \$80 per registration and will not incur a late fee for registration at any time. Registration opens Wednesday, November 5, 2025, at 7:00 AM PST via Judging Card; all registration closes December 19, 2025, by 11:59 PM.**

A maximum of 200-240 seats, depending on location, will be available at each conference. To be certain you secure the number of seats you need, complete the registration materials promptly. Each conference will begin promptly at 1:00 pm and conclude no later than 11:30 am the next day. All conferences will include dinner and breakfast.

**ALL REGISTRATION IS HANDLED ON A FIRST-COME BASIS.**

One week prior to your registered conference, you will receive an email with additional instructions. Conference certificates will be available on Calaged.org > Events > Integrated Leadership Conferences > Made for Excellence).

**Teacher Expectations:**

**Registration will begin at 12 noon through 12:50 pm.** Please arrive between those times knowing how many students and chaperones you brought and your students t-shirt sizes (small-4xl). Shirts will be laid out for advisors to grab after checking in at registration along with certificate folders. Following the start of the conference there will be an **advisor/chaperone meeting around 1:15 - 1:30pm, or after all students have entered the conference rooms.**

Advisors will be expected to supervise students and be present with them during breaks and be available on site in the event of an emergency or for student management. A school staff member/chaperone must always be present on site and in supervision while students are in participation at an out-of-school sponsored event. At some locations, staff will have informal meetings coordinated by their regional supervisors or CATA leadership.

*Liability Waiver - California FFA is not directly responsible for students, advisors or chaperones attending events sanctioned by the state association. Local school districts and designated advisors/chaperones are responsible for the oversight and management of themselves and their students. Local management also includes securing proper insurance and medical waivers as designated by a chapter's local school board.*

*Multimedia Recording and Usage Policy – The California Department of Education & The California Association of FFA staff and its designees may capture photos, video and other recordings of participants before, during and after events at events sanctioned by the state association. Please be aware that all recorded media may be used by the California Association of FFA in future print materials, online materials (including FFA websites and official social media accounts) signage, slideshows, podcasts, videos and other uses in physical and digital forms. Attendance at events sanctioned by the state association implies your consent to be photographed, videotaped and otherwise recorded for these purposes.*