

**AREA VII FFA
LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT EVENTS
GENERAL RULES**

Event Registration

All teams and participants who placed 1st or 2nd in District need to register at www.judgingcard.com.

Event Procedures for Virtual Events

Due to the current health crisis and to stay in compliance with social distancing and other COVID-19 guidelines, all Area Leadership Development Events will take place in a virtual format in 2020. Students will be allowed to participate in virtual event(s) from their homes, in accordance with specific guidelines.

The FFA Advisor will be required to review these guidelines with each student prior to the event and the advisor must certify that the students will adhere to the following guidelines:

- 1) The FFA member(s) who qualified is/are the actual student(s) that is/are participating.
- 2) Each contestant will use only the allowed materials as set forth in the event rules and this virtual event procedure document.
- 3) Contestants will not talk, share questions/answers, or in any way communicate regarding event materials at any time during the event, except as permissible in the contest rules.
- 4) All presentations will be completed solely by the FFA contestant during the allotted time without any assistance from anyone else or by any means not allowed in the event rules or this virtual event procedure document.
- 5) Only one internet browser tab will be open and only one device per team (if competing in the same location) or per individual (if competing in different locations) will be used to participate in the zoom presentation.
- 6) Download Zoom: Zoom is the preferred platform for the Area Leadership Development Event contest. Please download Zoom (zoom.us) on your computer OR download the Zoom application on your phone to prepare for the presentation. If your school district does not allow the use of Zoom, other platforms (i.e. Google Meets and Microsoft Teams) can be accommodated.
- 7) The use of electronic devices (other than the device on which the Zoom presentation is conducted) such as cell phones, smart watches, tablets, etc., is strictly prohibited.
- 8) No pictures or screenshots of contest materials can be taken during the contest.
- 9) Setting/Environment: Please select a location that has sufficient lighting (please do your best to be lit from the front) and does not have a distracting background or noise. It is encouraged to reach out to your campus IT staff and/or administration to determine if there are locations on campus best suited to virtual competition (i.e. School Board meeting rooms).
- 10) Connectivity: We recommend that during practice sessions, participants check their internet connectivity since some parts of the state have poor internet connectivity. In those locations, it may be better for a student to use a cell phone. That's perfectly fine. We would just recommend that a student use the LANDSCAPE (horizontal) view, rather than the PORTRAIT (up/down) view.

- 11) FFA members must adhere to the Code of Ethics as set forth in the FFA Manual. Inconsistencies and violations of these procedures will be investigated thoroughly. In the instance where a procedure listed above is violated, the team may be subject to disqualification.

Event Rules

All virtual Leadership Development Events will follow the official rules published on <https://area7ffa.ffanow.org/default.aspx?ID=2463>.

Official Dress Requirements

All teams and individuals will be required to adhere to the Official Dress requirements listed in the event rules published on www.texasffa.org/lde.

Event Scoring

Electronic rubrics provided by JudgingCard will be utilized in all events that require evaluation by judges. The Quiz events will be conducted online via QBank. Judges will also have to option to scan handwritten critiques.

Presenting Virtually

In order to feel comfortable presenting virtually, it is recommend that participants PRACTICE ahead of time. Zoom is a free program/app and can be used on computers or mobile devices (cell phones). The free version allows more than two people to stay on a Zoom call for up to 40 minutes. Participants can set up free Zoom calls multiple times over the next several weeks to practice their group presentations. When presenting, it should be assumed that the device connected to Zoom is your judge. The device should be placed in a location which allows the view of each participant. Additionally, the device should remain stationary during the presentation, and not be moved. Contestants should be facing the device and presenting to the device, just as they would a live judge if the event were in person.