



MICHIGAN FFA

To view additional  
contest details, see the  
contest clarification  
sheet on the Michigan  
FFA Website

# FLORICULTURE

## Career Development Event

### PURPOSE

The Floriculture Career Development Event (CDE) requires students to identify plants, construct floral arrangements, and solve problems. Participants also demonstrate skills in flower arranging, propagation, and the preparation of floral and foliage products for sale.

### OBJECTIVES

1. Identify commercial cut flowers and potted plants sold in the U.S.
2. Develop problem-solving skills related to retail floral operations.
3. Develop skills and knowledge in the design and marketing of floriculture crops.
4. AFNRE content standards for this contest are listed on the [National FFA website](https://www.ffa.org/participate/cdes/floriculture/).

### EDUCATIONAL STANDARDS

For educational standards, please refer to the Agricultural Communications Handbook located at <https://www.ffa.org/participate/cdes/floriculture/>

### EQUIPMENT

Students are to **bring their own**:

- Two sharpened No. 2 pencils.
- Clean, free of notes, clipboard
- Scissors
- Wire cutter
- Floral knife and/or floral shears
- Wire
- Adhesives (floral corsage tape and cold corsage glue, either Oasis or Fitz brand).

**Students may not bring any other materials.**

## PROCEDURE

### Contest Procedures

1. Team scores will be the sum of the scores of the top 3 team members. Up to four (4) students per team can compete.
2. The contest has 4 phases: Identification, General Knowledge/Problem Solving Exam, and Floral Design Practicum (copy design and corsage making)
3. No contestant will be permitted to touch or handle plant material during the contest, except in the practicum.
4. Observers will not be permitted in the contest area while that contest is in progress.
5. No contestant will be permitted to communicate to another contestant while competing or receive assistance from any other source.
6. Contestants will be assigned to group leaders who will escort them to various contest staging sites. Each contestant is to stay with their group leader throughout the contest.
7. All contestants will participate in two practicums.
8. Students are eligible to test for the Student Certified Florist. Students will take the same general knowledge and identification test as all other students. They will be required to complete the same copy design and corsage, with the addition of a vase arrangement to be designed at the end of the contest. Students must receive an 80% or better on the general knowledge, an 80% or better on the identification, and an 80% or better average on all three hands-on practicums. There will be an additional fee for the certification test. Students must have 20 hours in the floral industry before certification. Students must fill out the work experience report form and turned in at the time of contest.

### Phase 1: Plant Identification

### **30 minutes | 100 points**

Fifty specimens will be displayed for contestants to identify. A master list will be provided to contestants listing 115 scientific names and 115 common names. The student will have to match the correct scientific name and common name to the specimen.

30 minutes is allowed for this phase of the contest.

Exam specimens will be taken from the study sheet provided and may be either fresh or photographed materials.

## **Phase 2: General Knowledge/Problem Solving Exam**

### **30 minutes | 100 points**

Questions will be written that cover the areas of the floriculture industry reflected in the contest objectives and will be taken from the various sections as follows:

- A. Accounting – 4
- B. Care and Handling – 10
- C. Customer and Sales – 9
- D. Delivery – 5
- E. Design – 13
- F. Display – 5
- G. Marketing – 4

The exam tests the student's knowledge and understanding of basic principles of marketing flowers, flowering plants, and foliage plants, floral design, display, sales, and store operations. All questions will be taken from the Michigan Floral Association Manual.

30 minutes is allowed for this phase of the contest.

## **Phase 3: Floral Design Practicum A - Copy Design**

### **30 minutes | 100 points**

All contestants compete for each team. Students will receive a "surprise package" of materials, from which they will create an arrangement from a photo or live example. Not all materials need to be included in the design, although no additional materials will be provided.

Mechanical aids, like glue, tape, and wire will be available in the contest room.

**No tools will be available at the contest, so be sure to have contestants bring their own floral knife and/or shears, wire cutters, and scissors. Contestants may not bring any other materials.**

30 minutes is allowed for this phase of the contest.

## Phase 4: Floral Design Practicum B - Corsage Design

### 30 minutes | 100 points

Each participant will receive a "surprise package" of materials, from which he/she will create a corsage. Corsage could be a wire/tape corsage or a glued corsage and will rotate from year to year. The corsage should be a minimum of three flowers and greens, created for special occasions, such as prom. Not all materials will need to be included in the design, although no additional materials will be provided. Ribbon will be available in the contest area.

**No tools will be available at the contest, so be sure to have contestants bring their own knife, shears, wire cutters, scissors and adhesives (cold Oasis or Fitz floral glue). Contestants may not bring any other materials.**

Type of corsage will rotate as follows:

2026 - wire

2027 - glue\*

2028 - wire

2029 - glue\*

2030 - wire

\*If the logistics of using glue at the contest proves too difficult, contest coordinators have permission to use wire exclusively.

**30 minutes** is allowed for this phase of the contest.

2 qualified judges will score the design; each judge sheet has a value of 100 points.

Afterwards, the designs will be delivered to hospitals and/or nursing homes in Michigan.

## SCORES

The **individual** score will be calculated as follows:

| <b>Possible Individual Points</b>                            |                   |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Identification (50 plants, 2 pts each)                       | 100 points        |
| General Knowledge/Problem Solving (50 questions, 2 pts each) | 100 points        |
| Practicum - Copy Design                                      | 100 points        |
| Practicum - Corsage Making                                   | 100 points        |
| <b>Total Individual Points</b>                               | <b>400 points</b> |

The **team** score will be calculated as follows:

| <b>Possible Team Points</b> |                    |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|
| Team Member 1 Score         | 400 points         |
| Team Member 2 Score         | 400 points         |
| Team Member 3 Score         | 400 points         |
| <b>Total Team Points</b>    | <b>1200 points</b> |

## Determining Awards

Gold and Silver awards will be determined by the Michigan FFA Association Executive Secretary.

## Tie Breaker

Tiebreakers will be settled in the following order:

1. Duplicate design and corsage score
2. General knowledge test score
3. Plant ID score