

FFA free stage attendants & grandstand ushers

Iowa State Fair

who we are

For over 60 years, FFA members from across the state have experienced the Iowa State Fair serving as a Free Stage Attendant or a Grandstand Usher. FFA members are selected through an application process during June. Once fair time rolls around, members move to the Iowa State Fairgrounds in Des Moines one or two days prior to the fair starting. FFA members selected as Attendants and Ushers are provided with housing and meals throughout the duration of the fair on the fairgrounds at the Youth Inn. Members are supervised by two program superintendents, state FFA staff, and state FFA officers.



what we do

Free Stage Attendants spend their time at the fair helping set up and tear down acts on the five free stages. Free Stage Attendants work closely with acts and stage crew members to prepare for performances of all types. Grandstand Ushers help distribute fair programs during the day and help seat 14,000 grandstand guests in the evening. Grandstand Ushers have the responsibility to make the fair experience as one of the first people you see when you come to the fair and possibly the last at the end of the day. Attendants and Ushers also complete other tasks throughout the fair when asked by the Iowa FFA Association or the Iowa State Fair including helping with FFA shows and exhibits and state fair contests.

why apply?

The Free Stage Attendant and Grandstand Usher programs are not just jobs at the Iowa State Fair. It's a chance for members to see the state fair while developing leadership skills including responsibility, time management, and communication. Members selected to serve as Attendants and Ushers are asked to make the experience what they want to make it while representing their family, FFA chapter, and the 14,000 Iowa FFA members. On our first night together, members are given the opportunity to become familiar with the fairgrounds and get to know each other through group activities. The next 10 days members are encouraged to see the fair or hang out with fellow FFA members serving as Attendants and Ushers. Throughout the 11 days together, FFA members take part in leadership training through activities lead by Iowa's National FFA Officer Candidate as well as assume leadership roles within the programs.



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what they have to say

Being an usher is one of the best decisions I have ever chosen to do. Not only did I learn how to take on responsibility, take orders, and become more active in the FFA, but I gained many lifelong friends who are more like family. Most of my favorite memories are from being an Iowa State Fair usher.

Marissa Donahue, Coon Rapids-Bayard FFA
Grandstand Usher 2010-2013, Head Usher 2013



I had such a great time serving as a free stage attendant because I was able to directly work with acts. It was also a great opportunity to advocate to those people about the organization and what the FFA stands for. I was able to learn a lot about sound equipment and how to properly use it by

working directly with professional sound guys.

Aleck Pafford, Villisca FFA
Free Stage Attendant 2007-2011



Serving as an Iowa State Fair Grandstand Usher was life changing.

It's the first "on my own" experience where I was able to build leadership skills and find new friends that will last forever.

Steven Roose, Pella FFA
Grandstand Usher, 2008-2012
Head Usher 2012

Being a free stage attendant was one of the greatest FFA experiences. I never thought that there could be so much fun mixed with work. Not only did I meet some pretty awesome country artists, but I also met one of my best friends. Stage attending gave me the opportunity to experience FFA in a different light as well as become an avid lover of the Iowa State Fair.

Abrah Meyer, Wapsie Valley FFA
Free Stage Attendant, 2010-2011

Still Have Questions? Contact Us!

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