



THE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

OCTOBER 22 - 24, 2026

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LEADER LETTER: SEPTEMBER 24, 2026

Dear Company Leader,

We look forward to welcoming everyone to the 2026 IFDA National Championship in a few weeks!

Registration and housing are now closed. We will be working over the next couple of weeks to review the registration information received. We will be reaching out to you to verify that each competitor is in the correct category. We will also be reaching out to share banquet seating plans with you. In the meantime, please find announcements and reminders below.

IMPORTANT HOUSING UPDATE

Disney's Coronado Springs Resort is now sold out. An additional block of rooms has been established at Disney's Port Orleans Resort - Riverside.

If you are in need of a guest room for the 2026 IFDA National Championship or have any questions or concerns, please reach out to us at events@ifdaonline.org or 703-962-9944.

NEW THIS YEAR! BRINGING THE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP AND BANQUET TO YOU LIVE!

We're bringing the excitement of the IFDA National Championship to even more people with a live stream of the warehouse competition and Banquet.

The livestream of the warehouse competition is an opportunity to showcase the incredible skill, precision and professionalism of foodservice distribution's best while giving colleagues, friends and family who can't be there in person a front-row seat to the action. The livestream of the banquet will enable more family and friends to watch the winners of our competition accept their awards. More details on how to watch and share the livestream are coming soon.

NEW THIS YEAR! PEDAL CAR RODEO

Thanks to our sponsor, Freightliner, IFDA will be hosting a pedal car rodeo on competition day for the first time. This fun activity will be open to children ages 4 to 10. All participants will receive a token of recognition for their participation! No sign-up is required, and qualifying children may complete the short course more than once.

CHILDREN'S CONTEST

Thanks to our sponsor, FLEET Advantage, the **Children's Contest** will continue to be an exciting and fun part of this event! The Children's Contest has two parts depending on grade level:

- 1) The Drawing Contest is open to children in second grade and below.
- 2) The Writing Contest is open to children in third grade and above.

All contestants MUST HAVE a parent or relative participating as a competitor in the IFDA National Championship. Contestants have the option to complete their entry in advance; however, all entries must be submitted on-site. Visit our [website](#) for the 2026 Contest Guidelines, Drawing Contest Entry Form, and the Writing Contest Entry Form.

JR. FORKLIFT RODEO

Thanks to our sponsor, Raymond, this year's National Championship will include the Jr. Forklift Rodeo. The event is open to participants ages 5 to 18. There will be two age divisions: 5-12 years old and 13-18 years old. Each category winner will be awarded a remote control forklift.

TECHNOLOGY POLICY

To help maintain a fair and secure competition, electronic devices will be restricted during specific parts of the National Championship.

Prohibited devices include, but are not limited to:

- Cellphones (e.g., iPhone, Android, etc.)
- Tablets (e.g., iPad, Amazon Fire, Surface, reMarkable, etc.)
- Smart watches (e.g., Apple Watch, Garmin, Samsung, etc.)
- Smart rings (e.g., Oura, Ultrahuman, etc.)
- Computers
- Headphones or earbuds (e.g., AirPods, Beats, etc.)
- Smart glasses (e.g., Ray-Ban Meta, VITURE Beast, Oakley Meta, etc.)
- Any device with a screen
- Any device with WiFi, Bluetooth, cellular, or other wireless capabilities
- Any device capable of recording and/or transmitting audio and/or video
- Any device capable of connecting to the internet

If in doubt about whether a device is prohibited, err on the side of caution and leave it behind!

When device access will be restricted:

- Orientation Day: From the start of orientation until competitors have completed the written test
- Competition Day: When competitors arrive in their respective waiting areas until they have finished competing for the day

We encourage competitors to leave prohibited devices in their hotel room or with a family member during these windows. For those who need another option, a tech drop zone will be available on-site.

Please share this policy with your competitors ahead of the event so they know what to expect. If you believe a competitor has a medically necessary device that would otherwise be prohibited, please contact IFDA.

TRAVELING TO ORLANDO

While not at the National Championship, fill your itinerary with all the unforgettable experiences Orlando has to offer, including legendary attractions, award-winning dining and world-class accommodations.

View the Visit Orlando website for information on things to do and discounts around the destination by showing your National Championship badge! Learn more [here](#).

JUDGES AND VOLUNTEERS

All judge and volunteer roles have been filled, and sign-ups are now closed. Thank you to everyone who signed up. We truly appreciate your support and look forward to seeing you on the course!

FAST FACTS

Championship Dates: October 22-24, 2026

Location: Osceola Heritage Park, Kissimmee, FL

Hotel: Disney's Coronado Springs Resort
Contact Us: events@ifdaonline.org

DISNEY EVENTS

Companies hosting team activities during the IFDA National Championship should confirm all arrangements with Disney's Coronado Springs Resort directly.
Michele A. Caroli, CMP, Senior Event Services Manager, Disney Meetings & Events
Email: michele.caroli@disney.com
Phone: (321) 388-8490

CONTACT US

Please reach out to us at events@ifdaonline.org with any questions or concerns.

You are receiving this newsletter because you will be serving as Company Leader for this year's IFDA National Championship. Please share this information with your company's participants. The Company Leader is an important role in ensuring a successful event and great experience for all participants. Those serving in this capacity are encouraged to attend the event in person. If your Company Leader has changed, please email us at events@ifdaonline.org and we will update our records. For more information about the Company Leader role or to see previous newsletters, [click here](#).

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