To:  **Independence** **FFA Members attending National FFA Convention & Parents**

From: Jason Hovell-Agriculture Instructor/FFA Advisor

Here are some details of excursion that need to be addressed. READ CAREFULLY!!!!

1.  The cost for the trip this year is $260.00, plus spending money. Of this, the Independence FFA Alumni has agreed chipped in $65.00 to cover bus expenses, the FFA Chapter will pay $4. You were asked to put down a $50 payment, leaving you to pay$105 after the downpayment.

A suggestion-Take from $100-$150 for food, depending upon your appetite.  More suggestions about money (these are based on mistakes of others)  **a)** don't let any other students know how much money you have, they won't ask to borrow money if they think you don't have any.   **b)** don’t spend all of your money on the first couple days of the trip, some people have been mighty hungry by Friday or Saturday.  c) Traveler’s checks might be a good idea for some of your money.

2. Official FFA Dress needs to be worn to **ALL CONVENTION ACTIVITIES**.  These activities start on Wednesday afternoon and continue through Saturday afternoon.  Official dress includes:  **FFA Jacket,  white shirt, dark blue or black tie,  black pants of skirt, black dress shoes**. The people stationed at the doors of the convention sessions will not let you in to the sessions unless you are in Official dress.

3.  Some clarifications on official dress. **FFA JACKET**. **SHIRT**-Take at least 2 white "dress" shirts.  They get "stale" after several wearings and you don't want to offend everyone near you. **TIES**-The FFA chapter has a couple of FFA ties, see me for one of these. **SHOES**  Black dress shoes are preferred-**You CANNOT wear tennis shoes** to the convention sessions.  If you don't have any dress type shoes, borrow some.  **BLACK PANTS/SKIRT**- Please see me if any of the above items are a problem.

4.  Casual dress (school clothes) can be worn for the tours and all activities Wednesday.  But have your FFA Jacket folded neatly in your carry-on bag as you may need it for tours.

5.  Remember that the weather is very changeable in Indianapolis, so bring appropriate attire.

6.  As of the printing of this information guide, the bus will be leaving the Blair Elementary at 7:00am on Wednesday, October 20th.

7.  Emergency numbers are on the sheet you are receiving in this packet. My cell phone # is 608-534-0024 in case you need to reach us**.**

8.   There will be 4 FFA Advisors chaperoning this year, as well as other adult supervision from our group.

9. Any student committing any acts of crime (shop lifting, vandalism, fighting, disobeying orders, etc.) will be sent home via Greyhound bus at the student’s expense.

10.  You will be traveling on a coach-type bus with 45 other FFA Members from schools in Trempealeau, Buffalo and Jackson County.   Remember, FFA members, you are on this trip to represent the FFA, School, Community, Yourself, and Your Family.  **PLEASE REMEMBER THIS!!**

**National FFA Convention**

**October 20th - October 23rd, 2010**

# Wednesday, October 20

 6:00am Coach arrives at Spur Station, Winona (CFC, Arcadia)

 6:30 GET HS pick up (GET, Mr. Schank)

 7:00 Coach arrives at Blair Elementary School (B/T, WHTL, IND, Arcadia)

7:15am Coach leaves Blair Elementary School for (BRF)

7:45 Coach arrives at Flying-J truck stop in Black River Falls (BRF)

 Noon Stop for lunch

 3:00 Fair Oakes Dairy

 6:00 Tour done, back on the road

 7:00 Hotel check in

 8:30 Leave hotel for concert

 9:30 Lady A concert at Lucas Oil Stadium

 12:00pm Meet coach at designated area at completion of concert

 1:00 am Everyone in rooms & Lights Out! (Get a good night sleep, tomorrow is a

 BIG day!)

# Thursday, October 21

 7:15 Bus leaves hotel for the convention

8:00 – 5:00 Agriscience Fair Judging

 8:00 Opening Session

10:00-6:00 Career Show and workshops and shopping mall- all day

 2:15 Wisconsin Photo at the RCA Dome adjacent to the food court

2:00-4:00 Second Session

5:30 Meet bus for Rodeo

7-9 Rodeo, Indiana State Fairgrounds

 9:30 Meet Bus for hotel…make sure you know where the bus is!

 11:30 Everyone in their own room

 Midnight Lights Out!

# Friday, October 22

8:00am Load bus for convention, pack the bus

8:30-4:30 Workshops and Career Show and shopping mall

11:30-1:00 Agriscience Awards luncheon – Westin – Grand Ballroom IV,V

Noon Lunch

12:00-1:30 Fifth Session

 3:00-4:30pm Sixth Convention

7:00-9:00 Seventh Session

 8:00 Meet coach at designated location to head at home

 Stop somewhere to eat, with rest stops

**Saturday, October 23**

 7:00am Arrive home (approximately) **AT GALESVILLE ONLY STOP**

## Hotel Information

Ramada Airport Indianapolis

5601 Fortune Circle West

Indianapolis, IN 46241

Phone 317.244.1221

## Cost Summary

$40 Registration

$25 Rodeo

$ 5 Tour

$30 Concert

$95 Hotel

$65 Coach

**$ 260 TOTAL COST**

**$260-$105 = $155.00-Student’s Share**

**FFA Alumni will pay $65 of cost and FFA will donate $40/person if they promise to sell $200 worth of fruit for our annual fundraiser, leaving each student responsible for paying $155.00. Students are responsible for bringing spending money along for meals and souvenirs ($100 is recommended).**

**Emergency Cell Phone-Advisor Contacts**

Jason Hovell, Independence 608-534-0024

Andrea Hanson, Blair-Taylor 715-533-1788

Kent Haake, GET 507-884-9072

Kevin Whalen, Arcadia 608-863-2784

**Indiana Convention Center:** (Emergency contact number)

**Items to bring:**

Official FFA Dress (Wednesday evening, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday morning.)

Casual, school appropriate clothing for the coach ride and in hotel. Comfortable!!

Money- You will need spending money for food and any shopping you wish to do.

 Prepare a budget for you to follow everyday. The FFA Shopping Mall has

 awesome clothing. Recommended $100 min.

Writing Utensils and paper/notebook

Camera with film

Watch- You will be expected to be on time!

PMA- Positive Mental Attitude

**Rochester City Lines- (**507) 288-4353

## Student Behavior & Safety

You are expected to be at your best during the entire trip.

Stick together in small groups. NEVER leave anyone alone!

Be on time or early to all meeting places.

Respect your fellow travel companions, hotel guests, and convention attendees.

Use appropriate language, gestures, and mannerisms- you are a representative of our chapter.