

Dear Parents/Guardians of Agriculture and Natural Resource Students in Mackay in grades 9th-12th:

Over the last couple weeks, your student may have been hearing about the National Convention Trip. This is an 11-day trip through fifteen states from Oct 21st to November 1st. We will be making educational stops along the way. Your student will miss a total of 5 school days. These absences are excused and much of the class work, in the past, has been completed prior to the trip.

The cost of this trip varies depending on how well we fill the bus. The trip cost for Mackay students ranges from 600-675 dollars (covers fuel, transportation, hotels, entertainment, tours, parking, and registration). Students will also be responsible for the cost of lunches and dinners not hosted by the Mackay FFA Chapter. The cost of the trip if we fill the bus will, hopefully, be near 650 dollars.

This is an incredible opportunity for your student to see the United States and participate in a conference with over 50,000 other young people from Rural America. In recent years, this trip has been planned in the spring. Due to the National FFA only having announced that the National FFA Convention is occurring in-person since May, we have been scrambling to fill out an itinerary to give you plenty of time to plan as a family. Decisions on other school opportunities are between you and your student—but the best chance to attend this trip for your student will be this year for a member of the Freshman class. Students must be taking an agriculture education class in order to attend.

Your student will need to make a 150 dollar **non**-refundable deposit by September 7th to hold his or her seat on the bus. Please, if an extension is needed, please don't hesitate to indicate so. The balance is to be paid off before the trip. Students must maintain grades sufficient to attend as per district policy.

Please see our basic itinerary (in progress) for this year. There will be other tours and details added as they are confirmed. Due to the nature of agriculture, at times tours have to be cancelled due to weather and other agriculture-based factors. Many of these tours have been hosting us over the years and are very much like family as we send out Christmas cards and keep in contact.

As the cost of the trip depends on filling the bus, do I am asking that you indicate if your student will be planning to attend—then I am able to discuss seating with other schools. Please, if you have any questions or concerns, contact me at 208-360-3724. We will also have a parent meeting in October to go over the itinerary and discuss the trip and expectations.

Sincerely,

Trent Van Leuven

_____, my student will be attending.

Parent Signature

Date

VERY Tentative National FFA Convention Trip Timeline

Thursday 10/21

2:50PM **Leave** Mackay, ID
4:30PM Blackfoot Ridley's Parking Lot
6:00PM Sack Dinner
11:00PM Cody, Wyoming
Cody Motor Lodge
(307) 527-6291

Friday 10/22

8:00AM Tour Buffalo Bill Museum
720 Sheridan Ave, Cody, WY 82414
10:00AM Leave
1PM Lunch with Thad Berrett in Buffalo, WY
4:00PM Devil's Tower
9:00 PM Custer, SD
Days Inn
(605) 782-9130

Saturday 10/23

8:00 AM Mt. Rushmore
10AM Pick up Chicken from KFC
Rapid City, SD
Badlands National Park
6PM Social with WALL FFA TO CONFIRM
Super 8 (605) 224-1617
Pierre, SD 57501

Sunday 10/24

7:15 AM Leave for Wessington, SD
9:30 AM Tour Pheasant Farm
11:00 AM - Lunch
12:30PM -Shaefer Farms - World's Largest Belgian Horse Farm
4:00 PM - Robotic Dairy and Creamery TO CONFIRM
10:00 PM Super 8
Clear Lake, Iowa

Monday 10/25

7AM Leave
Winnebago Factory Tour
4 PM Mushroom Farm TO CONFIRM
Days Inn
815-875-3371

Tuesday 10/26

11:00AM Lincoln Park Zoo
3PM Shedd Aquarium

Super 8 Lafayette, IN
(765) 607-6350

Wednesday 10/27

9:00AM Leave for Indianapolis
12:30PM FFA Career Expo
3:00PM Opening Session KEC
7:30PM Depart for Georgetown, Quality Inn
Greenfield, IN
(317) 468-2222

Thursday 10/28

9:30 AM Agriscience Fair and Workshops
2:00 PM Second General Session
5:45 PM Dinner and Idaho Night
Quality Inn
Greenfield, IN
(317) 468-2222

Friday 10/29

8:00 AM Leave for Nashville
7:00PM Grand Ole Opry
10:00PM
Days Inn,
Clarksville TN

Saturday 10/30

8:00AM Leave Nashville
2:00PM St. Louis Museum or Gateway Arch
Super 8 by Wyndham Topeka/Wanamaker
785-380-8039
Topeka, KS

Sunday 10/31

8:00AM Leave
Time Change
2PM Watertown Bison Ranch and Bison Lunch
9:00PM Rawlins, Wyoming
Econolodge
Rawlins, WY
(307) 324-2783

Monday 11/1

7:00 AM Leave Rawlins, WY
1:45 PM Arrive in Blackfoot, ID
4:00 Arrive Mackay, ID