



WEST POINT FFA

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To: FFA Members and parents

From: Lee Schroeder – FFA Advisor

The State FFA Convention is rapidly approaching April 7, 8, & 9, 2010 in Lincoln. We are looking forward to a fun and rewarding experience for all of the FFA members that attend. This letter will address several questions that you may have concerning the convention and the current schedule for the convention.

The State Convention is held at three sites in Lincoln. The main convention business sessions and the Leadership Skills Events are held at the Cornhusker Hotel in downtown Lincoln. The State Career Development events are held at the UNL East Campus, and the evening program and award ceremonies are held at Pershing Auditorium. Parents are welcome to attend the State FFA Convention, especially the evening sessions which are designed for large crowds.

DRESS: The FFA convention is the major showcase event for the States FFA members. Official dress is a must for all members attending. Official dress for young men includes FFA jacket zipped to the top, a white collared shirt, black socks, black shoes, and an FFA tie. Girls are to wear the same, FFA jacket, white collared shirt or blouse, black skirt or pants, black shoes, and FFA scarf. Many of the girls will be wearing skirts at the convention and this is encouraged. It is important that the skirt be at least knee length.

Official dress is very important to the convention atmosphere, as we have important donors and government officials at the convention and we want a positive image presented for our chapter, school and State FFA. No hats are allowed in the convention sessions, LSE events, and CDE events. Do not bring one.

Cell Phones: We all know that cell phones are important social devices for most teenagers; however they can also be a distraction from what they are really supposed to be doing. No cells phones are allowed in any sessions or contests. They are considered rude and distracting and in a contest a cheating tool. They should be off and in your pocket at these times. I will hold your phone until your session or event is over if you chose to use it at the wrong time.

Hotel: We will be staying at the Comfort Suites on 27th and Superior. The rooms all have a king bed and a pull out couch that can sleep 2 more. I selected this hotel as it is convenient for members to find something affordable to eat, (there is a Burger King in the parking lot), and easy to get to. Each room has a refrigerator and microwave, so it is okay to bring some pop or Gatorade, along with snacks like microwave popcorn. Each member could owe up to \$42.00 for the State Convention hotel if they sold no fruit. Each person's convention bill is determined by the total dollars of fruit sales the collected

minus their hotel fees. So if you sold over \$420.00 of fruit, your bill is \$0.00. As you can see, each members bill will be different based on their fruit sales totals. The total is due on Friday April 2nd.

Behavior: This is very important. We all know that we will have an increased number of students attending the convention this year. If you would like that to continue, it is imperative that everyone follow all school rules and policies while away attending the convention. While attending the convention, it is important to realize that all school rules and policies are in full effect. In other words, smoking in school and smoking at the convention are one and the same. You will be expected to be where you are supposed to be, when you are supposed to be there. Failure to appear at a convention event you are scheduled to be at or in will result in a fine that will include your convention fees, and if a team event is missed, the convention fees for all team members. (We have paid \$18.00/member in fees for each member attending; most teams have 4 people on them.)

Convention Experience: One of the greatest benefits of attending the convention is the exposure that it gives each member to FFA members from across the state. Some of you will meet and make friends from all over the state. These may become your future classmates and colleagues as you further your education and begin your career. I know that FFA experiences have helped many former students adjust to college life in Lincoln as they had shared experiences with FFA members from across the state, and actually knew several people on their dorm floor or fraternity from the FFA experience.

Sincerely,

Lee Schroeder

West Point FFA