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MEMORANDUM

TO: Middle School Agricultural Education Teachers
FROM: Erin N. Nessmith, Leadership Program Specialist
DATE: November 6, 2015
SUBJECT: Discovery Conference

The Discovery Conference is a wonderful opportunity for middle school FFA members. It is a great way to get young members excited about the FFA and introduce students to the opportunities that FFA has to offer.

The 2016 Discovery Conference will have two date options, **Blue Session: January 21-22, 2016 and Gold Session: January 22-23, 2016**, at the Georgia FFA-FCCLA Center near Covington. Students should plan to wear casual dress for the entire conference. Conference registration is from 3:30-5:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 21 for Session Blue and from 3:30-5:00 p.m. Friday, January 22 for Gold Session. The conference will conclude before noon on Friday for Blue and before noon on Saturday, January 23 for Gold. Lunch for Friday and Saturday is not built in to the conference registration cost, but you may add lunch to either day when completing your conference pre-registration. Lunch will be \$6.00 per person. Lunch will not be provided on Thursday.

The cost to attend the 2016 Discovery Conference is \$45 per person. That fee includes all conference materials, a t-shirt, an Official FFA Manual, two meals and lodging at the Georgia FFA-FCCLA Center. Each student attending the conference must have a completed Parental Consent Form and should receive a copy of the Camp Policies. Please be prepared to turn in the Parental Consent Forms for your students at on-site registration. Participants should also bring linens or a sleeping bag and pillow, toiletries, towels/washcloths, and warm outerwear.

Every person attending the Discovery Conference must be pre-registered. Registration and payment for the conference needs to be completed and postmarked by **Tuesday, December 15, 2015**. You will complete the online registration through the link provided in the corresponding e-mail and mail a printed copy of your completed registration along with payment to the Georgia FFA Association. No faxed or emailed registration information will be accepted. Registration is only complete upon the receipt of payment. Any registration and payment postmarked after December 15 (including money that is paid onsite) will be charged a \$10 per person late fee or may not be accepted. Both Blue and Gold sessions will be capped at 300 students per session.

Please be aware of these new conference policies:

- **Full payment** for each student registered must be received with the conference registration due 12/15/15.
- **No refunds will be issued.** Please keep this policy in mind as you request checks for the final payment due at registration. If a student cancels, that student can be replaced with a different student at any time.
- There will be no lodging/meals cost for non-advisor chaperones. Chapters are encouraged to bring a chaperone for each gender and have a ratio of one adult per 10 students. As always, there is no cost for bus drivers. T-shirts for bus drivers and chaperones are \$10 each.

An **FFA Quiz activity** will be conducted at the conference. All students will individually complete a written quiz. The top ten students based on written quiz scores will participate in an oral quiz to determine the winner. The winner will have the choice to receive a free FFA jacket or a \$50 Summer Leadership Camp Scholarship.

Again this year, One Less Thing has graciously agreed to set up a few ID practicums for students to explore CDE opportunities available in the FFA. The ID events are optional for chapters to participate in and will be set-up from 2:00 until 5:00 p.m. on Thursday for BLUE session and 2:00 until 5:00 p.m. on Friday for GOLD. More information about these events will be sent to teachers who register for the conference.

If you have any questions about the Discovery Conference, please don't hesitate to contact me at the office (706) 552-4457 or on my cell (386) 216-4703. I look forward to seeing you and your students at the conference!

Enclosure
Parental Consent Form