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MEMORANDUM

TO: Middle School Agricultural Education Teachers
FROM: Andy Paul, Leadership Program Specialist
DATE: August 10, 2018
SUBJECT: Discovery Conference- Blue Session 2018

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 2017/2018 Discovery Conference will have two date options AND two location options.

Blue Session: September 28-29, 2018 at Camp John Hope in Fort Valley, GA

Gold Session: January 25-26, 2018 at the Georgia FFA-FCCLA Center, Covington, GA.

The following information is directly related to the first Discovery Conference installation in September 2018. Information on the January conference will be sent out closer to the time of that conference.

Students should plan to wear casual dress for the entire conference. Conference registration is from 2:30-4:45 p.m. on Friday, September 28 for Session Blue. The conference will conclude at noon on Saturday, September 29, 2018. Lunch for Saturday is not built in to the conference registration cost, but you may add lunch when completing your conference pre-registration. Lunch will be \$7.00 per person. Lunch will not be provided on Friday.

The cost to attend the 2018 Discovery Conference is \$50 per person (student and advisor). 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 to the camp nurse. Participants should also bring linens or a sleeping bag and pillow, toiletries, towels/washcloths, and appropriate indoor/outdoor outerwear.

Every person attending the Discovery Conference must be pre-registered. Registration and payment for the conference needs to be completed and postmarked by **Wednesday, September 12, 2018**. You will complete the online registration through the link provided in the corresponding e-mail and mail a printed copy of your invoice along with **full 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 September 14 (including money that is paid onsite) will be charged a \$10 per person late fee or may not be accepted. The Blue Session of Discovery Conference will be capped at 150 students.

Please be aware of these conference policies:

- **Full payment** for each student registered must be received with the conference registration due 9/14/17.
- **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. Any student deletions to your registration AFTER September 14 will still be charged the full conference amount. You may substitute students (same gender) up until 7 days before the conference (9/22/17).

- There will be no lodging/meals cost for non-advisor chaperones. Chapters are encouraged to bring an advisor or 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. The quiz will take place at 4:15 p.m. on Friday, September 29 and is open to any and all registered students.

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 4:45 p.m. on Friday. More information about these events will be sent to teachers who register for the conference.

I have attached a classroom flyer for promotional needs.

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

Enclosure
Parental Consent Form
Classroom Flyer