



FFA NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE CELEBRATION

84th National FFA Convention

October 19 – 22, 2011 | Indianapolis, Indiana





National FFA Organization

6060 FFA Drive
Indianapolis, IN 46268
(317) 802-6060
www.ffa.org

August 17, 2011

Dear friends and supporters of Native American youth,

We are proud to share that the 2011 National FFA Convention will feature a celebration of our Native American heritage, and we want you to be part of it. The celebration will pay tribute to the rich ancestry and traditions of Native Americans especially in FFA, agriculture and agricultural education. We have 210 chapters that serve students who self-identify as Native American. These chapters are found in 20 states across the country. The uniqueness of the celebration provides a bridge to connect the National FFA Organization to communities and people too often overlooked.

Our national FFA convention is host to more than 50,000 members and supporters in Indianapolis, Indiana. This year's convention will be held Oct. 19-22, 2011. The spirit of the Native American Heritage Celebration is anchored in building community with an emphasis in empowering and advancing Native American youth in agricultural education programs and FFA chapters throughout the country. We invite students, teachers, state leaders, elders, tribal leaders, non-profit organizations and government agencies to engage in dialogue on how to close the achievement gap of Native American youth in education and career success. Be amongst the country's leading voices, influencers and decision makers in education on **Thursday, October, 20, 2011 for the Native American Heritage Celebration Stakeholder Roundtable and Luncheon from 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.** Additionally, please review the full schedule for events and activities related to this year's celebration and opportunities throughout the entire convention.

The National FFA Organization, formerly known as Future Farmers of America, is a national youth organization of 523,309 student members as part of 7,487 local FFA chapters in all 50 states, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. The National FFA Organization changed to its present name in 1988, in recognition of the growth and diversity of agriculture and agricultural education. The FFA mission is to make a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education.

We look forward to connecting with you. For more information, feel free to contact us at darmstrong@ffa.org or sbrown@ffa.org or Erica Flores, Coordinator for Diversity and Inclusion, at either eflores@ffa.org or 317-802-4220.

Best Regards,

W. Dwight Armstrong, Ph.D.
Chief Executive Officer
National FFA Organization

Steve A. Brown, Ed.D.
National FFA Advisor
National FFA Organization





AGENDA

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2011

Welcome to Indy Luncheon (invitation only)

11:45 a.m. – 1 p.m. | Business Attire, Official Dress for FFA members

Indiana Convention Center | Sagamore Ballroom

In the true spirit of “Hoosier Hospitality,” every year the city of Indianapolis hosts a Welcome Lunch for the 1,000 members and guests to kick-off the week of convention activities.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2011

National FFA Agricultural Career Show Grand Opening

12:30 p.m. – 1 p.m. | Business Attire, Official Dress for FFA members

Indiana Convention Center | Exhibit Halls F-I

The National FFA Agricultural Career Show includes more than 1,300 booths representing colleges, agriculture-related companies, fundraising companies, U.S. Armed Services, and auto and truck manufacturers that pack exhibit halls F-I at the Indiana Convention Center for the National FFA Agricultural Career Show.

The Native American Heritage Celebration is highlighted in the “National FFA Organization – Booth 1800” located in between the FFA Shopping Mall and Career Show floor. Additionally, be on the lookout for the “Native Voices” banner display showcasing outstanding Native role models in agriculture, FFA and agricultural education.

National FFA Grand March

2:30 p.m. – 3 p.m. | Business Attire, Official Dress for FFA members

Indiana Convention Center | Entrance Patio Courtyard

A long standing tradition, a processional of FFA members representing their respective association and bearing their state or territories’ flag down “FFA Way” serves as the symbolic start to the National FFA Convention. As a part of this year’s Native American Heritage Celebration, and similar to a Grand Entry at the start of a Powwow, flags of various Native American Tribes and Nations will be carried by Native FFA members from throughout the country.





AGENDA

Opening Session 1B (reserved seating)

7:15 p.m. – 9:15 p.m. | Business Attire, Official Dress for FFA members

Conseco Fieldhouse | Main Stage Arena

LIGHTS! CAMERA! ACTION! All of the bells and whistles, even a laser show, go into the national convention's opening session! National FFA President Riley Paget of Oklahoma will preside over the much-anticipated session. Opening session highlights include the National Officer Team showcasing this year's convention theme "I Believe," and motivational speaker Dave Roever.

Brulé Concert (reserved seating)

10 p.m. – 11 p.m. | Business Attire, Official Dress for FFA members

Conseco Fieldhouse | Main Stage Arena

A full hour of the Native American experience of sight, sound and soul. Paul LaRoche (aka Brulé) shares his personal story of self-discovery, identity and reconciliation through this late evening concert. Brulé has become one of the top-selling Native American recording artists with more than a million CDs sold worldwide.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2011

National FFA Career Show

8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. | Business Attire, Official Dress for FFA members

Indiana Convention Center | Exhibit Halls F-I

Native American Heritage Celebration Stakeholder Roundtable & Luncheon (reserved seating)

8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. | Business Attire, Official Dress for FFA members

Indiana Convention Center | Wabash 1

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AGENDA

General Session 2 (reserved seating)

2 p.m. – 5 p.m. | Business Attire, Official Dress for FFA members

Conseco Fieldhouse | Main Stage Arena

Chaired by National FFA Central Region Vice President Tiffany Rogers session 2 celebrates the heart of our organization: the local FFA Chapter. Our chapters are positively transforming communities and developing the next generation of change agents. During this session a very special recognition will honor the heritage and contributions of Native Americans to agriculture and FFA. Former Chief of the Blackfeet Nation and Chairman of the Blackfeet Tribal Council and former FFA member from the 1940's, Earl Old Person will provide remarks and Native FFA members will present Pendleton blankets to each of the National FFA Officers and National FFA Advisor as a symbol of affirmation, respect and unity.

National FFA Talent Revue

5 p.m. – 7 p.m. | Business Attire

Conseco Fieldhouse | Main Stage Arena

From song to dance, our guests always marvel at the diverse talents of our FFA members. Be ready to tap your foot and sing along as this year's FFA talent presents a show sure to entertain and amaze audiences of all ages.

THE NATIVE AMERICAN SPIRIT: CONNECTEDNESS

"I have seen that in any great undertaking it is not enough for a man to depend simply upon himself."

- Lone Man (Isna-la-wica), Teton Sioux

The spirit of Native American culture is in connectedness; All beings are connected and all beings have something to contribute. National FFA could not agree more.

CONNECT! Past. Present. Future. We're launching an exciting program for everyone who has been influenced by FFA. We want to hear from current members, former members and everyone else whose lives have been touched by FFA! Share your stories—past and present—and let us know how FFA has impacted your life!

CONNECT with FFA, and you'll also get a chance to win your choice of great prizes. Plus, let your family and friends know, and you'll increase your chances of winning, through December 2011.

Register at www.ffa.org/connect beginning late September.





AGENDA

THE NATIONAL FFA ALUMNI CELEBRATES 40 YEARS

The National FFA Alumni Association is celebrating 40 years this year and what better way to show your alumni pride than joining the National FFA Alumni Convention! FFA alumni, parents, teachers, sponsors, and collegiate members have the opportunity to take advantage of a premier convention with workshops, sessions, Alumni Nation and a special FFA Alumni concert featuring Joe Diffie.

THE NATIONAL FFA CONVENTION SCHEDULE

This schedule highlights events and activities specifically connected to the Native American Heritage Celebration. Please be sure to explore the [full convention schedule](#) and [convention planning site](#).

CELEBRATION REGISTRATION

Please follow this [link to register](#) specifically for events with reserved seating **and** related to the celebration.

CONVENTION HOUSING

FFA Chapters and state association should utilize normal housing procedures. If you are not associated with an FFA chapter or state association please contact Erica Jane Flores at eflores@ffa.org or 317-802-4220.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Erica Jane Flores

Coordinator for Diversity and Inclusion | National FFA Organization
eflores@ffa.org | (317) 802-4220

