

# NATIONAL FFA CONVENTION 2018



## **DAY 1-**

There's a couple things that start to become a habit to FFA members. One being waking up early in the morning to attend either conventions, conferences, meetings, or anything else the FFA is holding that day. October 23th, 2018, 9 Kiel FFA members found themselves up before 6 in the morning getting ready & waiting in a parking lot for a big coach bus. Along with 5 other FFA chapters, Kewaunee, Mishicot, Brillion, Valders and Sheboygan Falls, 56 students were on their way to the 91st national FFA convention. On our way down to Indianapolis, we stopped at many touring sites. The FFA member's first stop was at Right Start Kennel. FFA members got to experience what dog training is and how dogs react to different situations. We saw many dogs and their connection with their owner Jim Van Engen, who got his start training dogs at the early age of 17 when he became the proud owner of a Labrador retriever. We heard stories about how the business started and how it continues to grow and prosper. Our next stop, the Baid seed company, in West Chicago. Here we learned how seeds are grown, packaged, coated, stored and sold. After the tour FFA members and advisors found themselves back on the road driving to Lafayette. After driving many miles, we all were getting hungry, the whole group had to split up into groups to make new friends. After doing this half of the group went to the escape room while the other half went out to eat. When everyone was done we all got onto the bus and drove to the hotel to call it a night.

## **DAY 2-**

After a night of sleep, FFA members found themselves awake before 7 am. We loaded up on the bus with full stomachs and very heavy eyes. We were on their way to Ozark Fisheries. At this tour FFA learned how fish are bred, packaged, and sold. After the tour, we were finally on our way to National Convention!! Once the bus arrived everyone branched out in eager to get those blue jackets on. With everyone in their official dress, students branched out in rage to go see what was all at convention. Kiel FFA then met up at 1:45 to go into the 91st Nation Convention opening session.

Kiel FFA members branched out away from the rest of the FFA members on the bus and went to eat lunch at one of the advisors favorite restaurants in Indianapolis. There were many different options of noodles and sauces. When they were finishing up eating, they were introduced to the paperclip game. With the paperclip game students had to trade their paperclip with a person from a different state and try to get something of more worth. Kiel FFA students tried to make as many trades as they could to win a prize for best trade. That night we got the chance to go to a rodeo, while others FFA kids from different chapters went to a Garth Brooks concert. While the rodeo was going there where many thing they got to experience, some being their first rodeo. During the rodeo many different things happened including one of are advisors going down into the arena and dancing to today's music. Many people say this was one of the funniest moments during the trip.

**DAY 3-** On day 3 of National Convention the bus full of kids woke up bright and early to go to a tour. They toured the Indy cars. Many said that it was really fun and interactive with car that they had. After the Indy car tour we rode back to Indianapolis, and went back to the convention hall where friends split up to continue on with their games and meet new people. After kids had about four hours at the convention hall everyone met up at the bus and loaded up ready to go to their next stop. The next stop was a mystery dinner. The goal of the mystery dinner was to use your food and your scripts you had to read to figure out who the murderer was. How this worked was kids would read a page or two of their script and then get a course of food. In total there were five courses served that night. The mystery dinner served everyone tasty food and a fantastic time. After everyone's bellies were full they once again loaded back onto the bus and to the hotel they went.

**DAY 4-** On day 4 of the National FFA Convention trip the bus full of kids got to explore and had the chance to go to different kinds of booths and sessions to learn and expand their knowledge about FFA and how it impacts the society. They were taught how to help with their community for the best results. Many students learned many things about different states and different companies. As friends were being made and fun was being held, you could tell all the kids were ready to go home and sleep.

**DAY 5-** By this day FFA members were very tired from running on no sleep, but still managed to keep their composure. On their way back to Wisconsin, everyone was very sad that the good times were coming to an end. With all the fun, from meeting new people and learning techniques from the 91st national FFA convention, many were hungry. They stopped at Golden Corral to eat. When they arrived at the restaurant, the Kiel FFA and their advisors had a meeting about their favorite things about the trip and what they learned to help their chapter. They also gave each individual a gift, as long with the prize for best traded item. Alex Kautzer won, she ended with a light up yo-yo. After eating and having their meeting everyone got back on to the bus to travel to their destination where they were getting dropped off. The bus made its first stop in Sheboygan Falls, many of the good friends that we made had left and the reality of this trip ending was finally hitting them. One of the hardest things was at the end, they all had to say their final goodbyes.

