



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The National FFA Convention Returns to Louisville

INDIANAPOLIS – The National FFA Organization announced today that its annual convention will be returning to Louisville, and the event will rotate between Louisville and Indianapolis for the foreseeable future.

Starting in 2013, the city will share hosting duties with Indianapolis on a three-year rotational basis. Louisville will host the convention 2013 through 2015. The convention will return to Indianapolis for the years 2016 through 2018. Louisville will then be given the first right of option for the years 2019-2021, and again for 2025-2027.

“We welcome FFA back to Louisville with open arms,” said Louisville Mayor Jerry Abramson. “Our city has so much to offer these young men and women from top notch hotel accommodations to entertainment and, soon, a new downtown arena. FFA’s homecoming is great news for Louisville at a time when a sour economy has been grabbing headlines.”

FFA CEO and National FFA Advisor Dr. Larry Case was jubilant as well. “The city of Louisville has always welcomed FFA with an extra helping of Southern Hospitality,” said Case. “I am confident that our members and advisors will be marking their calendars and looking forward to their opportunity to return to Louisville where they feel so at home.”

“Today’s announcement of the return of the national FFA convention to our commonwealth is fantastic news for Kentucky,” said Gov. Steve Beshear. “We look forward to seeing FFA members in their traditional blue and gold jackets walking the streets of downtown Louisville and enjoying our many attractions for years to come.”

The annual national FFA convention, which was previously held in Louisville from 1999 through 2005, hosts more than 54,000 high school-aged FFA members from across the country.

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The return of this prestigious event—the nation’s largest annual youth gathering—will bring Louisville estimated annual revenue exceeding \$40 million.

At this morning’s announcement, FFA representatives presented Louisville officials commemorative with blue corduroy banners showcasing the FFA emblem and the years the city will host the annual national FFA convention.

The National FFA Organization, formerly known as the Future Farmers of America, is a national youth organization of 507,763 student members – all preparing for leadership and careers in the science, business and technology of agriculture – as part of 7,439 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. Visit www.ffa.org for more information.

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