

Hello my name is Kyle Shamp and I am one of the Agriculture teachers and FFA advisors at Eureka High School. Today I am going to be talking about the adventure that Mrs. Lovfald, Miss Sarvinski and 11 students are currently on. The teachers and students left on Friday for 10 days to attend the National FFA Conference. Quick backstory on what the FFA is and why so many students are involved in it. The FFA makes a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education. FFA membership today is comprised of 653,359 student members nationally in grades seven through 12 who belong to one of 8,568 local FFA chapters throughout the United States, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Every year, FFA members nationwide converge in one place to celebrate their accomplishments and find inspiration for their next steps. Motivational keynote speakers, energetic concerts, fulfilling workshops and a sweeping expo floor bustling with agricultural education and industry opportunities are all aspects of the conference. The teachers and students will be attending along with over 60,000 other members and advisors. The workshops they attend range from new technologies in the agriculture industry to ways to self-reflect and learn what traits a person has to become a great leader. They attend these workshops during the day along with going to the career show where there are numerous university representatives from throughout the country, industry partners that show off their products and students can talk to them about what it takes to be hired and accomplished in that field. In the evenings the group will be going to a rodeo as well as a Garth Brooks concert that is exclusively for FFA members.

The conference is 4-5 days so the rest of the time the group will be going to historical and educational sites. The Hermitage was former President Andrew Jacksons home stead is one place they have gone. They will also be walking through and touring the Parthenon in Nashville. That was one of my favorite things when I went back a couple of years ago. In the evenings the students and teachers will be going to the Grand Ole Opry, Louisville Slugger Museum, Country Music Hall of Fame and a Horse Stud Farm. All in all it is a very busy, fun, fast and educational trip that is a once in a lifetime trip for these FFA students.