



2016 | FALL
September

Peace Through Understanding

FLORIDA I.F.Y.E. Update

In this ISSUE

**. REFLECTION FROM OUR
INBOUND IFYE....page 1-5**

**SUMMARY FROM 2016 KANSAS
IFYE CONFERENCE...page 2**

**FLORIDA TO HOST
2017 NATIONAL IFYE
CONFERENCE...page 3**

**2016-2017 IFYE
CALENDAR...page 4**

**2016 CAMPAIGN TO FUND IFYES
OUTBOUND – CHALLENGE!
....page 5**

FLORIDA IFYE GATHERING
Florida State Fair
Tampa, Florida
Saturday, February 11...page 5

**OUTBOUND IFYE
APPLICATIONS...page 6**

**IFYE SPEAKER AVAILABLE
...page 6**

Editor: Georgene Bender
Visit our Face Book Page
"IFYEs Living in Florida"

Florida IFYE Updates
will be published

September, January, May

If you have information you want to



INBOUND IFYE REFLECTS TIME IN FLORIDA

My name is Jennifer Birchen, I am 25 years old from Luxembourg (Europe). I grew up on a dairy farm and 5 years ago my brother started horse stables. I am the 2016 from

Luxembourg to Florida IFYE to learn more about the Florida it's agriculture and it's culture within the USA.

Wednesday June 15th is the day that my childhood dream became true: To Be an IFYE. Beginning the big oversea adventure meant a night without sleep because of being so nervous and getting up early in the morning to drive to the airport.

When I was a little child my mother told me her adventures of being an IFYE and I always knew that I wanted to get the same experience, travelling to a foreign country, be hosted by different families and learning more about their culture and lifestyle. And here I am, 30 years after my mother, I am travelling as an IFYE to the United States. ...*continued on page 2*

WHO'S WHO IN THE FLORIDA IFYE PROGRAM

REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE TO THE NATIONAL IFYE BOARD

Marion Huey

FLORIDA IFYE COORDINATOR

Georgene Bender, Florida IFYE Coordinator (since 2015)
gmbender@ufl.edu

NATIONAL IFYE 2017 CONFERENCE CO-CHAIRS FOR IFYEs LIVING IN FLORIDA

Debbie Nistler, Friend of IFYE nistlerd@ufl.edu
Joyce Strollo, Missouri IFYE jjstrollo@comcast.net



Luxembourg IFYE continued

**2016
IFYE Conference
Kansas**

I have the opportunity to attend the conference during August. It was my 40th IFYE Anniversary of my 6 month trip to Poland with 22 other delegates. We had 6 of them attend the conference –what fun to reminisce. The conference was excellent with more training for coordinators and meeting more of the IFYE’s who winter in Florida. Last night evening entertainment was the PEDERSON BROTHERS – an internet sensation.



***Judy Moenck and
Georgene Bender,
IFYEs to Poland 1976
with Pederson Bros.***



The IFYE Orientation Weekend took place in Washington D.C from 17th to 19th June, seven (7) Americans traveling outbound and eighteen (18) incoming IFYEs from different countries came

together. It was an excellent event to meet new friends and IFYE members from all over the world and to know people how are getting a similar experience. After a full weekend of activities, informations, présentations and a tour of Washington D.C everybody was ready to begin their adventure.

June 20th I landed in Orlando where my first host mother Georgene Bender, Florida IFYE Coordinator, met me at the airport. That night I saw the strawberry-moon which was very pretty. I stayed three weeks with Georgene’s family, they introduced me to the American culture and lifestyle. I soon got my first cowboy boots and we went line dancing as there was no more excuse not to try it. I learned about Florida’s agriculture business, the citrus, blueberry and strawberry farms. Unfortunately I miss the harvest season so we went visiting a plant nursery as well as the famous Parkesdale farm where I tasted the legendary strawberry shake. This was absolutely delicious and I became Luxembourg’s Strawberry Queen. I got some informations about the Florida wildlife, alligators, snakes and mosquitos. Adapting to the heat and humidity was a little bit difficult at the beginning because the Luxembourgish weather is very different from Florida’s. On the cultural level, I experienced 4th of July and I learned more about Tampa’s history by visiting the historic museum, Tampa theater as well as Ybor City. We went for a walk at Bok Tower Gardens and on the beach of St. Petersburg where I could see a beautiful sunset.

I participated as a visitor the 4H Camp Timpochee in Niceville where I learned more about 4H activities for young children, I took an air-rifle and marine science class and went kayaking in the bay. After giving a presentation about my country, the kids’ curiosity was awakened and they asked tons of questions.

After five days full of activities and joy at the camp, I had to travel to my second host family. They had a lovely old farm, I took an English-riding class and I learned to rope. My host-sisters were adorable and we had a wonderful time together. I



IFYE's Living in Florida– to Host 2017 National IFYE Conference

**August 30 –
September 3
Rosen Plaza Hotel –
Orlando, FL**

We need
volunteers to help
prepare for the
conference.

Please contact
Joyce Stollo at
jjstollo@comcast.net
Or Deb Nistler at
nistlerd@ufl.edu

found out more about home schooling and the army service by the host parents. The able to see wild dolphins and manatees. That was awesome ☺.

I stayed five days at the 4-H University Camp in Gainesville. An excellent event to find out more about 4-H activities for young adults and career opportunities. In addition I met the Korean and Japanese 4H exchange agents. After giving presentations about our countries at an international workshop we visited the historical museum and the butterfly garden of Gainesville which are very interesting. Having dinner in the Gator stadium was fabulous.

Time to go to my third host family in Panama City where I stayed for three weeks. We went on a turtle-watch walk in the morning and collected shells and sand-dollars. Furthermore, I was able to observe a cheerleader training of my host-sister which was very interesting to see. We visited Panama City beach and down town and I was surprised by the architecture- upside down house (Wonderworks), the big ship of 'believe it or not' and the extraordinary golf court. ☺ This family really wanted to test my car drive abilities and took me with them on their vacations in Kentucky, which means a very long car drive. I did surprisingly very well during the drive and I was just looking out of the window and taking pictures all the way up to Kentucky. It was amazing to see the changes in the landscape by going through the different states. We travelled through north Florida (pine trees), Alabama (cotton fields), Georgia (delicious peaches), Tennessee (smoky mountains) up to Kentucky. We crossed a bridge between Kentucky and West Virginia which connects two states, two cities and two rivers. We went visiting a glass blow fabric (Blenko) in West Virginia and traveled further north to the Scioto county fair in Ohio where I met an old family friend which came as an IFYE to my family 25 years ago. That was such a fabulous and exciting moment to see her again. We had a good time together and I was introduced to country music by listening to the live concert of Rio Diamond.



On the way back to Florida, the family and I profited to go for sightseeing. So we stopped in Kentucky at the Cumberland Falls Moonbow (unfortunately we were 2 days early), in Tennessee for the Mayfield Dairy and the Lost Sea Adventure. In Georgia we went to the biggest Western Store, an old hand-bottled sugarcane-syrup fabric in Alabama before getting back home in Panama City. A short rest for my



2016-2017 IFYE Calendar

**October 1 – Open
Registration for 2017 June
IFYE Outbound – Deadline
January 15, 2017**

Apply via www.ifyeusa.org

January 15 – Registration
Opens for IFYE Gathering @
State Fair

February 11 – IFYE
Gathering at Florida State
Fair, Tampa 10-3pm

2017 IFYE Conference
Committee Meeting – 3-4pm
@ State Fair

host-sisters before school starts again. I had the opportunity to join them for their orientation day so that I got an opinion of the American schools and classrooms.

Mid-August I flew from Pensacola to West Palm Beach to meet my fourth host family. We visited the city of West Palm Beach, I saw the big villas of the famous and rich people. Furthermore, we went to the beautiful beach and witness a sea turtle rescue center where I got some more information about the marine wildlife of Florida. In addition, we also went to a Manatee observation center but the Manatees were too busy to say hello to us ☹️. I got the fantastic opportunity to bake my homemade key lime pie which was the best I have ever eaten, so delicious a recipe that I definitely take home to remind myself of my amazing time in Florida. At the culinary level, my host mother gave me a lesson in cake decorating and at the cultural level I got to watch a college baseball game together with my host brother.

By the end of August I travelled south to get to Miami for my last host family. I was lucky and got to my second baseball game (Miami Marlins) and to get to visit



Miami downtown, the art district, the freedom tower as well as the famous Miami south beach. My host dad explained me the different types of agriculture in south Florida and he took me to an avocado farm as well as a gator farm where we rode an airboat through the everglades which was very fun. In addition, I joined him at a 4-H activity and learned more about his 4-H work.

Hurricane Hermine ruined my last few activities a high school football game and Key West. I got to experience the weather, huge storms with tons of rain, during my last few days complete with power outage.

During my stay in Florida I learned a lot about the American lifestyle and especially about the Florida agriculture and horticulture. While travelling all over the state I discovered the multiple variations of Florida's wildlife. I unfortunately missed the strawberry, blueberry and citrus seasons but I learned a lot about tropical fruits, plants and the marine wildlife about which I had absolutely no idea. By

visiting the different attractions I learned more about America's history, culture as well as traditions.



FLORIDA STATE FAIR

DISCOVER THE FUN

February 9-20, 2017

IFYE Gathering

at State Fair
Saturday, February 11,
2017
10am – 3pm
4-H Showcase
IFYE Booth

3-4pm IFYE
Conference Committee
Meeting

Special Events Building
Parking FREE
Cost is to enter Fair
only
(not on site yet)

Need Volunteers

for the day:

Visit with IFYEs in Florida, Artifact displays, costume display on mannequins, visit with IFYEs on experiences, as well as 4-H families involved with Hosting Japanese youth. Interactive table for various crafts from Around the World.

Contact. Georgene if interested
gmbender@ufl.edu

Registration will be in January

I was absolutely blessed by all of my host families which were awesome. An Luxembourgish as well as the European culture. I will return back to Europe with a heart full of gorgeous memories.

I want to thank all the people that I met on my trip for welcoming, hosting, teaching and making my adventure such a great and fantastic experience. Special thanks to the American IFYE Committee and all the people who helped organizing and planning my trip. I will go home with a heartful of good memories, a nice tan from the Sunshine State. I absolutely have a reason to come back and meet you all again. 'See You Later Alligator' 😊

Oct 1- 31 ...Challenge to raise \$1,000 for our IFYE Outbound Program by Florida IFYE!

Brandt Smythe, OH IFYE to Poland 1976, has challenged the 60+ IFYEs in Florida to raise \$1,000 to our fund and he will match our collection up to \$1,000! What a generous offer. I don't expect those that contributed \$1,950 to give again.

Make check payable to: Florida 4-H Foundation RE: Global Education IFYE

Mail to:

Florida 4-H Foundation, Inc
2142 Shealy Drive, P.O. Box 110225,
Gainesville, FL 32611

Special thanks to the following for their contribution
when we started this in March 2016:

Sam McDonnell, Charles Banning, Sally Narhi, Nancy Barrett, James E. Morgan, Dorothy S. Taylor, Dr. Marilyn Norman, Disney matching Dr.





IFYE Outbound Applications

**June - September
3 month placement**

**Application fee \$100
All application go to
National IFYE
Executive**

**Total Cost of
Experience is
\$2,600**

**Flight, insurance, host
stay, training**

**Florida IFYE will
provide a few
scholarships – amount
yet to be determined**

Contact. Georgene if interested
gmbender@ufl.edu

Registration will be in January
via the internet.

Beau with Margaret (former MI 4-H Leader and staff) at the IFYE Booth at the Florida State Fair.



IFYE Speaker Available

BEAU NISTLER, 2015 Florida IFYE to Thailand has a wonderful presentation of his 3 - month experience among families and agriculture specifically orchids, tropical fruits and rice farming.

Contact Beau directly as he is in college and also works to set up some dates. He is in the Gainesville area.

Email: beaunistler@gmail.com

or check out his Face Book page to connect with him.

