



IFYE Association of the USA, Inc.

Peace Through Understanding

IFYE Update – March 2021

National 4-H Conference Center

Jan Wood, President

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While IFYE has not been a part of 4-H since the early 1990s, 4-H is a special part of our history.

Many of us were 4-H'ers—and stayed at the National 4-H Center to attend conferences. We toured Washington, D. C. and witnessed the U.S. Federal Government in action.

Orientation for most outbound IFYEs was held at the National 4-H Center before departing for our host countries. As new IFYEs, we became acquainted with others who became lifelong friends. A quick look at our membership list reveals several married couples who met as IFYEs and the National 4-H Center played a role in many of those introductions. My husband, Larry, and I met at the National 4-H Center in the summer of 1970 during Citizenship Short Course. Nearly every time we visit Washington, D.C., we visit the 4-H Center.

Earlier this month, the National 4-H Council announced the National 4-H Conference Center is for sale. The organization stated they are selling the Center “in order to continue our mission of expanding opportunity for all of America’s youth through increased investment and participation in 4-H positive youth development programs.” Also, they stated that, “National 4-H Council will continue to be located in the Washington, D.C. metro area” and continue to hold national events by building public-private partnerships.

It must have been a difficult decision for the National 4-H Council to close and sell this beautiful and memory-filled home of 4-H. I

am saddened by this action but hope the National 4-H Center will have a new owner who will appreciate and honor its history for it is much more than grounds and a building.



2021 IFYE Conference in Branson

Victoria Warren

2021 Conference Committee Member

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The 2021 conference planning committee is looking forward to seeing you in Branson, Missouri, September 23-26. The committee is meeting in early April to review plans and set the registration fee to be approved by the IFYE Board Finance Committee. One of the previously listed tour venues has closed due to COVID-19; more to come on what the new tour will be. If you are a 1970 or 1971 IFYE Family member, your group and guests will have a space for a reunion meal (brunch or lunch) at the conference on September 23. Look for the conference registration site to be open in early May. Meanwhile, go ahead and register for your hotel room. The Radisson has developed a personalized weblink for us to use to make lodging reservations: <https://www.radissonhotels.com/en-us/hotels/radisson-branson/deals/ifye-association>.

This rate is available for stays from September 18, 2021 to September 29, 2021. If you need special accommodations or have questions, contact the hotel at (417) 335-5767.

Program Update

Alan Lambert, National Program Director
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The 2021 U.S. IFYE program has had a successful application, interview, and selection process with 18 individuals selected for two-, three-, or six-month programs. Six of these individuals submitted applications as part of the IFYE - United Soybean Board Leadership Development grant. These participants were interviewed and selected by IFYE and recently confirmed by the United Soybean Board.

We are continuing to monitor the worldwide concerns for the Covid-19 pandemic. Many of our partner countries have cancelled their IFYE program for 2021. IFYE USA will decide within the next month to continue, reduce, or suspend our program for 2021. We will continue to work with our participating countries to examine all options.

We continue to plan for the future. We are expanding our relationships with universities to offer academic credit for outbound IFYEs, adding additional commodity groups and corporate partners for enhanced leadership and job shadowing opportunities, and searching out more host countries to meet the growing number of IFYE applicants. A committee is also developing strategies to work toward re-engaging with Cooperative Extension to promote the IFYE program.

Looking for Stories, Photos and Video

Sheri Swackhamer, Digital Media
Committee Chair
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The Digital Media Committee is always looking for short stories, photographs and video clips from our IFYE family to use for marketing. Please send your story and photos (with captions) to Sheri Swackhamer, Committee Chair. Video content should be directed to Nick Birsan, Committee Member, at 13birsan@gmail.com. By sending your stories, photos, and videos, you are granting authority to IFYE Association of the USA, Inc. to publish responsibly any content on any of our digital media platforms.

Breaking through the Clouds

Ken Gordon, Executive Director
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Our IFYE logo features a few clouds around the lower portion of the pictured globe. When looking at our logo, it reminds me that at times we all face a few clouds. Last year, we were faced with the dark cloud of COVID-19 that circled our world. That cloud has not yet lifted, but it is beginning to break. Soon, we will again be back on track with a more robust program for a new generation of IFYEs.

Although our 2020 program was suspended, work continued to advance IFYE and the greatness of our program. Earlier this year, we were invited to submit a proposal request to continue the United Soybean Board (USB) grant for 2022. We are also working with the National Sorghum Producers and hope to provide an IFYE leadership experience for a few of their young leaders. This is positive news for IFYE.

We continue our efforts to build IFYE. We are strengthening our relationships with the Foreign Agriculture Service (FAS) and agricultural organizations with international offices to enhance our program. Each day we are actively pursuing corporations, foundations, government agencies, and other organizations to improve our financial position. Light is breaking through the clouds, and I look forward soon to a time when bright light once again shines upon IFYE.

Opportunities to Volunteer

A few months ago, you received a survey regarding the IFYE Association. Many of you expressed an interest in helping with various IFYE programs and activities, but we did not ask for contact information.

Below is a link to a short survey listing the many opportunities to support the IFYE Association with a place for your contact information. As we move forward, there will be many ways you can support IFYE in your state or nationally. We look forward to your further involvement in the IFYE Family.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TDZ9RZL>

Thrivent Choice Charitable Dollars Program - Corporate Grants

Sheri Swackhamer

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For IFYEs who have insurance products or annuities with Thrivent Financial (a financial services company who used to be called Lutheran Brotherhood, Aid Assn. for Lutherans or Thrivent Financial for Lutherans), you may be aware of their program called "CHOICE Dollars." This is one program of Thrivent's charitable fraternal benefits where you, as a member of Thrivent and an IFYE, can choose to send your available CHOICE program dollars directly to IFYE USA! As a 501(c)(3) charitable organization, IFYE is a recognized charitable educational association in Thrivent's catalog of programs who can receive designated dollars.

After you direct and designate your program dollars in the Thrivent Choice Program, please send an email to IFYE's Associate Treasurer, Pat Hutsell, phutsell@ifyeusa.org, with the dollar amount and the date of directed donation. Pat will provide recognition and a "soft credit donation" to you for participating in this charitable program. The designation of Choice program dollars coming from Thrivent's In Faith Foundation is not a personal tax-deductible contribution directly from you. IFYE appreciates participation in all corporate grant programs and donation matching programs.

[Other Corporate/Matching Dollar Programs](#)

All corporate giving program dollars are appreciated by IFYE. Please research your employer or retiree benefits programs to see if there are any matching programs for your giving. Most matching programs are offered online and provide easy enrollment forms with check boxes to ask for a match. Sometimes, a scanned copy of an email or a receipt may be required to show a higher level of contribution for your tax return. Any effort on your part to acquire matching funds is greatly appreciated and provides needed support to the IFYE program.

2022 IFYE Conference

We are looking for a state to host the 2022 National IFYE Conference. Get together with IFYEs from your state, your outbound group, a group of states or a group of your IFYE friends and plan a fun and educational conference. Contact Jan Wood, IFYE President, for more information. jwood@ifyeusa.org



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