

# 2010 International Leadership Seminar for State Officers

## Frequently Asked Questions & Answers

**Q. Who is able to attend the 2010 ILSSO trip?**

A. Any current or past state officer may attend the ILSSO trip.

**Q. Can a state officer who has attended ILSSO in the past, attend the trip in 2010?**

A. Yes. If you have attended an ILSSO trip in the past, you are welcome to attend again.

**Q. Where will the 2010 ILSSO trip be held?**

A. The 2010 ILSSO trip will be held in China. Our tentative plans are to visit Beijing, Xian, Suzhou and Shanghai. See the tentative itinerary at <http://www.ffa.org/programs/global>

**Q. Why China?**

A. ILSSO traveled to China in 2009 and had a great time. The participants learned a lot about Chinese agricultural and were able to appreciate another culture. China and its culture is something very few people experience – it is a rare opportunity to visit a country completely different than the United States and be able to visit in a safe, planned, group environment.

**Q. Is China a safe country?**

A. It is very safe to travel in China. The group will be accompanied by a English speaking Chinese tour guide during the entire trip, as well as, local English speaking tour guides in each town/city visited. The guides oversee the groups safety and well being and help to communicate what is safe and not safe. Participants will be prepared and informed of precautions during orientation in San Francisco.

**Q. What are the dates of the 2010 ILSSO trip?**

A. The tentative dates for the 2010 ILSSO trip are January 3 – 15, 2010. We will hold a one day orientation in San Francisco prior to leaving for China. January 3 is a travel day to San Francisco, January 4 is an all day orientation in San Francisco and we leave for China on January 5, 2010. These dates are tentative and are subject to change.

**Q. How do I apply to attend the trip?**

A. You apply for the trip via an application process. Visit <http://www.ffa.org/programs/global> to download the application. Be sure to read and thoroughly complete the application. Applications are due postmarked by September 1, 2009. You will submit a general ILSSO application and a Chinese Visa Application – both found at <http://www.ffa.org/programs/global>

**Q. Do we need a US Passport to travel to China?**

A. Yes. You need a US Passport and should not delay in applying for one if you plan to attend the 2010 ILSSO trip. Your original US Passport is due to the National FFA office by October 16, 2009! Visit [http://travel.state.gov/passport/passport\\_1738.html](http://travel.state.gov/passport/passport_1738.html) for instructions and applications to apply for your US Passport.

**Q. Do I need a Chinese Visa to travel to China?**

A. Yes. National FFA will apply for your Chinese Visa for you. You do need to submit a Chinese Visa application along with your general ILSSO application – due September 1, 2009 – both may be found at <http://www.ffa.org/programs/global>. Be sure to complete the Chinese Visa Application thoroughly. DO NOT apply for your own Chinese Visa – again – National FFA will do this for you!

**Q. What is the cost of the 2010 ILSSO trip?**

A. There are many factors that determine the per student cost of the trip including the itinerary, number of participants, etc. We are still working on the itinerary and will not know the number of participants until mid September (after applications have been submitted). We should know the final cost by the end of September. The estimated cost of the trip is \$4200. If you plan to fundraise, we suggest you begin raising money with at least \$4200 in mind and start the process now.

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The \$4200 will cover the participant's hotel room and food in San Francisco during orientation, flight to and from China (from San Francisco), all tours, transportation, materials and supplies, administration costs, chaperone costs, Chinese Visa and most food while in China (participants will have a couple of meals on their own).

The \$4200 does not include the cost of the participants US Passport, flight to and from orientation in San Francisco, one or two meals while in China (participants will have a couple of meals on their own), souvenirs.

**Q. When is the money due for the 2010 ILSSO trip?**

A. There is a \$200 non-refundable deposit due with the application on September 1, 2009. The remaining balance will be invoiced to all participants in late November 2009. The entire balance is due to the National FFA Organization before going on the trip.

**Q. How much spending money will I need?**

A. This is a tough question to answer. Everything in China will be covered in your trip costs other than one or two meals and/or any additional activities or transportation you take outside of the planned itinerary so you will not need money for those items. There will be plenty of opportunity to shop and purchase souvenirs for friends and family back home. You could spend as little as you want or you could spend a lot – it is your decision. There will also be opportunities to purchase snacks along the way (these are not covered in the trip costs) i.e., candy, sodas, chips, etc.

**Q. Are there any scholarships available for the 2010 ILSSO trip? How do I apply?**

A. There may be a few small scholarships available through the National FFA Foundation. There is a scholarship application included in with the general ILSSO application. If you are interested in applying for a scholarship, complete the scholarship application along with the general ILSSO application and submit both by the September 1, 2009. \*\*If you apply for a scholarship, be sure to follow the instructions.

**Q. Can I raise money to attend the 2010 ILSSO trip?**

A. Absolutely... and we encourage it. Check at <http://www.ffa.org/programs/global> for documents and suggestions to help you raise money for the trip.

**Q. Once I submit my application, am I committed to attending the trip and paying the fee? What is the cancellation policy?**

A. Once you submit your application, it will be reviewed for completion. You will receive an email letting you know your application was or was not accepted. Once your application is accepted you will be committed to the signed and notarized cancellation policy in the general ILSSO application. Please be sure to read the cancellation policy thoroughly before signing it and having it notarized so you are aware of the policy. You can review the cancellation policy by visiting <http://www.ffa.org/programs/global>.

**Q. How many participants typically go on ILSSO?**

A. It varies. The 2009 group consisted of 50 students and 5 chaperones.

**Q. Do any chaperones travel with student participants on ILSSO?**

A. Yes. There will be several chaperones attending the trip to oversee the student participant's safety and well-being.

**Q. What type of vaccinations are needed to visit China?**

A. There are no required vaccinations to visit China; however, the Center for Disease Control (CDC) does recommend certain vaccinations – visit [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov) for a list. It would be best to visit with your family doctor for recommendations.

**Q. Will I be able to call or email home during the trip?**

A. Yes. The group will be in larger cities in China and have fast, wireless internet connection in all of our hotels. It will also be easy to communicate with friends and families in the U.S. using international calling cards.

**Q. What did the 2009 ILSSO participants say about China?**

A. They loved it. 100% of the participants recommended the trip to others. They all felt safe and enjoyed the trip.