**Doctor of Plant Medicine Program**

Steinmetz Hall | Department of Entomology and Nematology

University of Florida, IFAS

1881 Natural Area Drive, Gainesville, FL 32611

Dear Parent/Guardian,

I am a graduate student in the Doctor of Plant Medicine Program at the University of Florida, conducting a youth outreach program on plant health and invasive species under the supervision of Dr. Amanda Hodges. The purpose of this study is increase awareness concerning invasive species through the education of middle and high school age youth through educational programming. The results of the study may help state regulatory plant health officials detect arthropod pests and diseases and protect various agricultural commodities. These results may not directly help your child today, but may benefit food security and health of natural ecosystems in the future. With your permission, I would like to ask your child to participate in this study.

Your child’s teacher has asked me to conduct a series of outreach events. Each event will consist of a pre-survey, short scripted PowerPoint presentation, brief discussion, and interactive hands-on activity. This will be followed by a post-survey that will include the same questions from the pre-survey in order to assess the knowledge gained by the class. The pre- and post-surveys will be recorded anonymously. Participants will not be asked for their name or any other personal information. Survey results will only be reported in the form of group data on a per class basis. Participation or non- participation in this study should not affect the children’s grades or placement in any programs.

The series of presentations will be as follows:
1) Introduction to Entomology: this presentation will consist of an 8 question pre- and post-survey.
2) Invasive Species that Affect Plants: presentation materials can be found online at the Protect U.S. Community Invasive Species Network website: <http://www.protectingusnow.org/>. This presentation will consist of an 8 question pre- and post-survey.
3) Plant Biosecurity – Local and Global Perspectives: presentation materials can be found online at the Protect U.S. Community Invasive Species Network and the University of Florida, Entomology website: https://entnemdept.ifas.ufl.edu/hodges/ProtectUs/presentations/Plant\_Biosecurity.pdf. This presentation will consist of an 8 question pre- and post-survey.
4) Careers in Agriculture: this presentation will consist of an 8 question pre- and post-survey.

You and your child have the right to withdraw consent for your child’s participation at any time without consequence. There are no known risks or immediate benefits to the participants. No compensation is offered for participation. If you have any questions about this research protocol, please contact me at cf1193@ufl.edu or my faculty supervisor, Dr. Amanda Hodges, at achodges@ufl.edu. Questions or concerns about your child’s rights as research participant may be directed to the IRB02 office, University of Florida, Box 112250, Gainesville, FL 32611, (352) 392-0433.

Sincerely,

Craig Frey

I have read the procedure described above. I voluntarily give my consent for my child, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, to participate in Craig Frey’s study of plant health and invasive species. I have received a copy of this description.

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          Parent/Guardian                                Date

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           2nd Parent/Witness                         Date