**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.

The event will consist of a pre-survey, short scripted PowerPoint presentation, brief discussion, and interactive hands-on activity. The pre-survey will contain 8 questions related to the presentation topic: 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/>. Open discussion and a brief Q&A session will follow after the presentation followed by the post-survey which will include the same 8 questions from the pre-survey. The pre- and post-surveys will be recorded anonymously. Participants will not be asked for their name or any other personal information. The hands-on activity will include viewing preserved and live plant and insect specimens related to plant health. University students will facilitate this component to ensure proper handling of the contained specimens. Participation or non-participation in this event will not affect the children’s grades or placement in any programs.

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](mailto:morgan0402@ufl.edu) or my faculty supervisor, Dr. Amanda Hodges, at [achodges@ufl.edu](mailto: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