



Hello Zone 1 Fair Friends!

In May of 2019, during my interview to become the Zone 1 Director, I was asked to put together a bus tour to visit some other fairs. The group had previously adventured to the North and South Carolina State Fairs in October, 2015.

After our San Antonio Convention in 2019 I did quite a bit of research of fairs and hotels. I found four Florida fairs just a few days apart and three lovely hotels that we could visit in March of 2021. We had enough initial interest (from about 28-30 Zone 1 friends) for me to proceed with the planning. To secure the rooms I signed the hotel contracts at the end of January and the first few days of February. Then our world came to a screeching halt and crumbled due to Covid-19.

When things were not improving I expressed my concern to the hotels last Summer and they advised me to wait a little longer. When our IAFE convention was recently cancelled I reached out again to the three hotels hoping to postpone our journey to March of 2022. Because there are absolutely NO RESTRICTIONS in Florida, one hotel told me that they would not be able to change our current commitment. SO, HERE WE ARE.....moving at full speed again with an abundance of positive energy towards a fun-filled journey in a hopefully healthier world.

These are the fairs we will be visiting.

St. Lucie County Fair, Fort Pierce, Tues. March 2nd, full day.

Southwest Florida & Lee County Fair, North Fort Myers, Wed. March 3rd, half day.

Florida Strawberry Festival, Plant City, Thurs. March 4th, half day.

Florida Strawberry Festival, Plant City, Fri. March 5th, full day.

Central Florida Fair, Orlando, Sat. March 6th, half day.

You should arrive at your leisure on, or before, Monday, March 1st. The closest airport to our first hotel is West Palm Beach, PBI. You should schedule your return flight home from Tampa, TPA, on Sunday, March 7th. These are our hotels, as follows.

Hutchinson Shores Resort, on Jensen Beach, for March 1 & 2, 2021. You can choose either a king or two queen beds. Included is a daily beach chair, in-room coffee, a lovely pool & fitness center, daily newspaper, and fresh fruit, homemade cookies and bottled water. The room rate is \$259 single or double, with an additional charge of \$10 per person per night for an extra guest staying in the room. You may call to reserve the room, 1-877-502-4653, room block IAFE Zone 1. You will be asked for your credit card, but not charged anything. All rooms are non-smoking.

The Best Western Waterfront, Fort Myers, for March 3rd. You can choose one bed or two. All rooms have balconies, and the hotel offers a complimentary breakfast. They have a wonderful pool, or you can go fishing off the pier. The room rate is \$179. You may reserve with the link....https://www.bestwestern.com/en_US/book/hotel-rooms.10277.html?groupId=8P7QK8Z3, room block IAFE Zone 1. You will be asked for your credit card, but not charged anything.

Trade Winds Island Resort, on St. Petersburg Beach, for March 4,5,6th. You can request a king, but it is not a guarantee. Included is a beach cabana every day, mini golf, paddleboats, a high tide slide, daily newspaper and bottled water. They also have a gorgeous swimming pool. The room rate is \$335, single or double, with an additional charge of \$15 per person per night for an extra guest staying in the room. You may call to reserve the room, 1-800-808-9833, room block IAFE Zone 1. You WILL BE CHARGED for the 1st night stay.

Please know that all three hotels are FULLY REFUNDABLE TO YOU, if you should need to cancel, but it MUST be done 3 days prior to arrival. The room block is my responsibility. All three hotels are available for you to make your reservations now, and MUST be made before January 22, 2021.

My challenge now, in what is possibly the WORST time to request donations, is to do just that. I will be reaching out to “fair friendly” companies and organizations in hopes of getting some financial support to help pay for the cost of the motorcoach.

So, please join me in this exciting and educational adventure. The opportunity to finally get back to the fair environment that we all miss and love could not come at a better moment. I know that I can't wait to stroll along the fairgrounds, cotton candy in hand, in the warm Florida sunshine! We all need something fun to look forward to, sharing laughter and friendship along the way! After you have made your reservations, please email and let me know so that I can get some important information....guest names, address, cell phone #, flight details, etc. Thank you !!!

Cheerfully, Kathryn R. Hunter hunterfarm1717@gmail.com 207-729-1544