

GPUS Annual National Meeting Proposal

Host State	New York
Host Local	Green Fest
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2nd Role/Title	organizer of Green Fest
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1. Basic Location

a.	Name of Site	Alfred University
b.	Location (City)	Alfred, NY
c.	Site URL	http://www.alfred.edu/
d.	Available dates	August 4-7, 2011
e.	Capacity	300+
f.	Internet access? Describe in detail	Entire campus is wifi
g.	Unionized?	From the school: With respect to the question about our being unionized, we do have a group of employees who have chosen to be represented by the Civil Service Employees Association (CSEA) but the majority have not felt the need for outside representation, although they have been given that option.
h.	Organic Pest Control?	From the school: I just heard back from the Director of the Physical Plant. He said that the only pest control we need is for cluster flies. He explained that the University contracts with an outside service to handle this (Terminix) and they probably do not use organic pesticide.

3. Transportation (to and from your site as well as options while in your city/location)

Alfred University is located in the western part of New York state, 60 miles from the Rochester airport and 68 miles from the Buffalo airport. Alfred is 30 miles from the Olean Airport and 46 miles from the Elmira/Corning Regional Airport. There is public bus service from New York City three times a day. There are a number of options for getting people from the airport to the venue including shared rental cars/vans, van service from Alfred University for a cost, and ride-sharing.

4. Description of Meeting Space

Alfred University is a friendly, vibrant living/learning community with a focus on "green" <http://www.alfred.edu/campus/going-green.cfm>. Founded in 1836, AU offers 40 undergraduate majors and a host of clubs, organizations and recreational opportunities. The campus is located in Alfred, New York, a village of 4,000 in the beautiful foothills of the Allegheny Mountains. We will be the only group on campus for the weekend. We will have use of classrooms, lecture halls, meeting rooms and other halls and auditoriums. We will also have use of the grounds for vendors and workshops that are appropriate for outdoors. A/V equipment provided includes microphones, overhead projectors, slide projector, screens, televisions, DVD/VCRs and computers.

5. Description of Lodging Options

There are a variety of lodging options available including camping areas for \$10 per night per person. There are traditional dorm-style rooms for \$25 a night and suite-style rooms for \$35 a night with discounts for children. Bed linens and towels are available for a \$10 fee. There is NYS sales tax of 8.5% on lodging and meals. There is an inn on campus for a discounted rate of \$89-\$115 a night.

6. Description of Food Availability/Meal Options

Meals will be provided cafeteria-style in a variety of meal plans ranging from \$55-80 (see below). The food is plentiful and hearty with a variety of selections including vegan, vegetarian and meat selections. The dining service uses as much locally-grown food as possible. There is a campus store which offers drinks and snack between meal-times. Within one block of the campus there are several local restaurants and bars.

Meal Plan Options:
6 meals (Friday dinner through Sunday lunch) - \$80
4 meals (Saturday lunch through Sunday lunch) - \$55
Children aged 4-9, half price. Children 3 and under, free,
plus NYS sales tax of 8.5%

7. Commitment of State & Local Parties

On December 10, 2010, the State Committee of the Green Party of New York State (GPNYS) approved a proposal to host the GPUS National Committee 2011 annual meeting in Alfred New York on August 4-7 during Green Fest. Green Fest is a biennial event held on the campus of Alfred University in rural Allegany County in western NY. Green Fest is open to all who are interested in sustainable living and sustainable politics. Many forums, exhibits, and workshops were held in 2009 (see schedule and list of over 50 workshops and 75 presenters at <http://nygreenfest.org/>). Each Green Fest has been bigger than the last, and this year it is expected to draw over 200 people from New York and neighboring states. Members of the Green Party of Allegany County and the Green Party of Steuben County are the principal organizers of Green Fest. The planning committee has begun planning for Green Fest 2011 and welcomes the opportunity to coordinate Green Fest activities with the GPUS Annual Meeting Committee. Rachel Treichler, Secretary of the Green Party of Steuben County, is the chief organizer of Green Fest. She has contacted Alfred University, which has confirmed that they have the space and resources to host the additional people who would attend if the GPUS meeting were held on the same weekend. The GPUS National Committee would greatly benefit from having their annual meeting at Green Fest, since the location provides an inexpensive retreat-like setting that will attract attendees and their loved ones for four days of relaxation and regeneration in addition to the usual business activities of the National Committee. GPNYS has just achieved ballot status and would greatly benefit from the national attention that hosting the 2011 annual meeting would bring. Five members of GPNYS have formed a committee to help with the NY logistics of the meeting, and more members will be recruited to help as plans firm up.

8. Other Green Considerations both to the party and to our values

Holding the annual meeting in Alfred creates an opportunity to highlight the Green Party's opposition to hydraulic fracturing, a method of extracting natural gas. Alfred is located on the Marcellus Shale, a marine sedimentary rock found in eastern North America. The shale contains natural gas reserves, and its proximity to the high-demand markets along the East Coast of the United States have made it a target for energy development. Since Alfred is only 100 miles from Canada, the meeting can be promoted to members of the Green Party of Canada, which is also opposed to hydraulic fracturing <http://greenparty.ca/media-release/2010-09-15/shale-gas-quebec-immediate-exploration-moratorium-needed>. Alfred University has wifi coverage throughout the campus, which means the events and workshops can be webstreamed to reach a much bigger audience.

9. Budget Implications

a.	Approx cost of meeting space	\$3375
b.	Approx cost of lodging (per person)	Various options including camping for \$10 a night, dorm rooms for \$25 a night, suite-style dorm rooms for \$35 per night and an on-campus hotel with rates starting at \$89 a night
c.	Approx cost of Meals (lunch and dinner)	\$55-80 for the weekend
d.	Total Cost of Event (includes A/V, security, local coordinator stipend, SC/Staff travel, media, and miscellaneous)	\$14325
e.	Average Registration Cost	\$115 early bird; \$145 regular

10. Approval of local and state parties

Local	Approved
State	Approved

