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FAYETTE 4-H HOSTING ANNUAL BENEFIT AUCTION

Uniontown, PA – The 13th Annual Fayette County 4-H Benefit Auction will take place 6 p.m. July 13 in the Youth Building at the Fayette County Fairgrounds.

Hosted by Fayette County's Penn State Extension and its 4-H Advisory Committee, the auction provides scholarships for 4-H youth and helps fund the 24 countywide 4-H clubs.

A global network of youth organizations, 4-H aims to help youth reach their full potential through a variety of programs. Its name represents four personal development areas: head, heart, hands and health.

Jennifer Deichert, 4-H Extension Educator, said the benefit auction is a great combination of youth participation and community connections.

"It allows the youth to help benefit their programs," Deichert said. "A lot of local businesses have supported us over the years, but most of the buyers seem to be members of our 4-H family."

For the last few years, the auction has been held a few weeks before the Fayette County Fair and become a fun kickoff for the 4-H community.

"All our clubs are coming together for a common good to support the family they're a part of and the buzz is they're excited about the upcoming fair," Deichert said. "Everybody's been kind of working on their individual projects within their own clubs, but the auction is where they get together and share everything."

All auction items are donated by local businesses, organizations and individuals in the hopes of exceeding the previous year's fundraising total. In 2017, the auction raised nearly \$13,000 for youth scholarships, programming and registrations for 4-H members to participate in regional, state and national events.

In the past year, the auction helped award eight 4-H graduates \$7,000 total in scholarships to help them further their education.



Additionally, five 4-H members attended the State Leadership Conference at Penn State University, while eight 4-H Shotgun Club members attended a state-level shooting competition at Penn State, University Park.

A Robotics Club team competed at LaRoche College's FLL Competition and State Achievement Days in State College, thanks to auction proceeds, while four members attended the National 4-H Youth Summit for Agri-Science in Washington, D.C.

The benefit auction also helped several adult volunteers attend the Western Leader Symposium to increase their knowledge of working with youth members and project-specific training.

Still to come, three teams will compete in the Science of Agriculture Challenge. They researched community needs, addressed local issues, developed solutions, collected data to test their theories and will soon present their outcomes - all thanks to auction proceeds.

This year's benefit auction items include themed baskets; resort and hotel stays; primitive crafts and collectibles; golf packages; tickets to sporting events, amusement parks and other local attractions; home and garden supplies; jewelry and purses; hunting and fishing supplies; restaurant and business gift cards; furniture; massage and spa packages and much more.

Deichert said she hopes more Fayette County residents will attend the auction and support local youth programming.

"All proceeds go directly to our members," Deichert said. "It helps with scholarships and gives the youth that opportunity to get outside of Fayette County and see what other opportunities there are based on what they're doing locally.

"It's important for them to get that exposure to new things and new people and have that interaction."

Although the more than 400 active 4-H members are excited for this year's fair, which takes place July 26 to Aug. 4 at the Fayette County Fairgrounds, Deichert said she's most looking forward to celebrating with her 4-H family during the stress-free auction day first.

"To see all the club members having fun and crossing those club lines is so rewarding," she said. "The swine club is interacting with the sewing club who is interacting with the robotics club and it's just great for the kids to see there are other points of view and experiences within the 4-H program as a whole."

Auction previews begin at 3:30 p.m., followed by buyer registration at 5:30. For more information or to donate auction items, call 724-438-0111.

A benefit auction event page with more information will launch Monday through the Pennsylvania 4-H - Fayette County Facebook page.



For more information on 4-H and Penn State Extension's various programming, visit www.extension.psu.edu. For more information on the Fayette County Fair, visit www.fayettefair.com.

To learn more about Fayette County, visit www.fayettecountypa.info.

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