

FOUNDATION FUNDAMENTALS

by Milford Jenkins, Angus Foundation

It's all about them!

Youth programs offer opportunities to build life skills.

Each year at the National Junior Angus Show (NJAS), the National Junior Angus Association (NJAA) offers a mentoring program pairing younger Angus juniors who have attended the NJAS fewer than two times with older NJAA members. The mentees receive a workbook that the mentor helps them to fill out.

With the encouragement and support of their mentors, mentees seek autographs of people involved in the Angus organization and learn Angus trivia through this activity. When I've been approached and asked for my autograph I've replied, "only if you give me your autograph too!" Their eyes light up. A big smile appears and confidence replaces

the nerves. They seem to grow an inch taller in mere seconds. In that moment, they believe even more in themselves — priceless!

More than a show

The NJAA provides Angus youth opportunities to develop skills like leadership, responsibility and organization. Angus youth participating in NJAS activities learn about themselves, discover their interests and increase self-confidence. Strengthening their abilities and confidence to overcome the challenges they may face in life is the ultimate goal.

Serving as role models for all NJAA members are the 12 National Junior Angus Board of Directors (NJAB) or "Green-jackets" as they're referred to fondly by the Angus community. Angus juniors look up to these inspiring, outstanding men and women who are responsible for leading the organization.

Many current and former NJAB directors were mentees, and then later served as mentors themselves.

You can't put a price on experiences like these in the NJAA, as they afford Angus youth the opportunity to learn, explore and grow. Whether it's competing in the show ring or the many contests offered by the NJAA at the NJAS,

Angus youth are gaining invaluable training that will equip them for their personal and professional lives.

Life skills

Opportunities for young NJAA members to further bolster their leadership abilities and skills can be found in the NJAA's Leaders Engaged in Angus Development (LEAD) Conference, Raising the Bar Conferences, and the STAR Conference. Simply put, NJAA experiences elevate confidence levels in Angus youth — increasing their resolve to overcome setbacks, defeats and adversity.

A common bond among all these Angus youth activities is they are made possible with the help of charitable gifts from generous Angus breeders, allied industry interests and friends to your Angus Foundation. Working together with you and your continued support, the NJAA and Angus Foundation will be able to offer even more personal leadership and educational opportunities for Angus youth in the future.

Will you make a gift to the Angus Foundation to help our Angus youth?



mjenkins@angus.org



Many NJAA mentees become mentors and help young Angus enthusiasts grow in confidence and leadership skills.