

AMP It Up

The pandemic may have created a need for change, but the National Junior Angus Board members did not let themselves lose sight of the importance of mentorship.

Story by Megan Silveira, assistant editor; photos by Megan Silveira and Madi Baughman, editorial intern

While the Angus Mentoring Program (AMP) looked a little different this year, National Junior Angus Association (NJAA) members still had the opportunity to engage in leadership activities at this year's National Junior Angus Show (NJAS).

The members of the National Junior Angus Board (NJAB) shed their green coats to spend some time relaxing and connecting with NJAA members of all ages during the AMP sessions. This event switched from pairing up a young Angus breeder with an older one to a series of group activities led by NJAB members and



hosted over a span of three days.

The initial session featured a group activity emphasizing the importance of communication and teamwork as NJAA members worked together to break open a shirt frozen together and get one of the group members to wear the clothing item.

The second and third days were spent getting to know other Angus juniors and unwinding after the start of the cattle show. Both sessions initially featured hot potato games — water-balloon style, of course — with industry questions. Can anyone say they were surprised the “games” turned into a full-out water-balloon brawl?

The NJAB members were able to provide an altered, but effective, mentoring program for this year's NJAS attendees, full of new memories and positivity.



NJAB members Keegan Cassady (left) and Tyler Bush (right) explain the new AMP sessions to NJAA members.



NJAB director Tyler Bush leads NJAA members in the group activities.



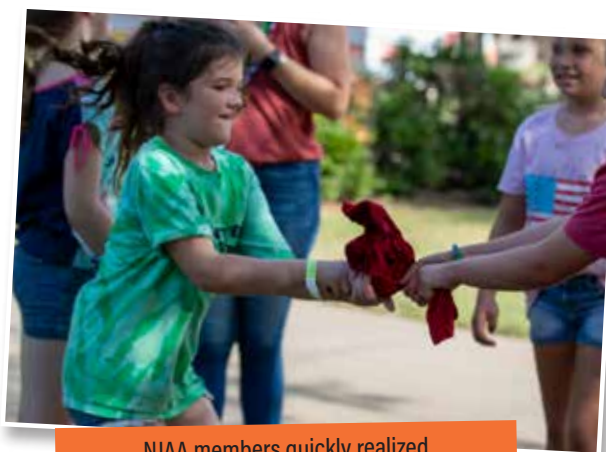
While the AMP sessions were different this year, older Angus members were still able to connect with and mentor younger juniors.



The calm before the storm — Angus juniors gathered close to listen to their NJAB members explain the second session's activities.



The second session's water-balloon fight began with just a few heavily tossed balloons.



NJAA members quickly realized teamwork was the key to success.



NJAB director Dylan Denny attempts to guard the supply of water balloons from AMP participants.



Smiles could be seen on NJAA members' faces during the entire session, even after the chaos of the water-balloon fight concluded.