

LEAD Conference in Fort Collins

Early registration for the annual youth leadership conference ends June 15.

by **Carrie Gilliam**, American Angus Association

Youth from across the country will travel to Fort Collins, Colo., for the National Junior Angus Association (NJAA) annual Leaders Engaged in Angus Development (LEAD) Conference Aug. 2-5. Themed “Peak Performance,” the leadership event, sponsored by the Angus Foundation, is designed for members 14-21 years of age.

“If junior Angus members are planning on attending the LEAD conference at least once, this is the one they don’t want to miss,” says Robin Ruff, American Angus Association director of junior activities. “The NJAA Board is working to coordinate an exciting, fun-filled and educational program that provides a great setting for the future of the Angus breed to develop leadership skills and lifelong friendships.”

Angus juniors will attend leadership workshops presented by the NJAA Board, as well as listen to a keynote address from professional speaker Andrew McCrea.

Tours during this year’s LEAD event will include area Angus operations — Aristocrat Angus, Rocky Mountain Sire Services and Spruce Mountain Ranch. Participants will also take part in the Colorado State University Ropes Challenge Course and

tour the university’s Agricultural Research, Development and Education Center.

In addition to workshops and tours, a white-water rafting trip is planned for those seeking some adventure. For those seeking some bargains, some shopping time is even in the schedule.

Conference space is limited, and early registration is encouraged by the June 15 deadline. The early registration fee for NJAA members is \$200.

After June 15, registration will be \$225 and accepted based on space availability. Registration for adults, state advisors and chaperones is \$250; no early registration deadline applies.

Registration is available online at <http://www.angus.org/njaa>. For more information, contact the junior activities department at 816-383-5100.

LEAD is funded in part by the Angus Foundation and is a program of the NJAA, which provides programs for nearly 7,000 members across the nation. A tentative schedule follows.



PHOTO BY CRYSTAL YOUNG

► Alisha Nord, Wolverton, Minn., traveled by tricycle down and back during an icebreaker relay in 2011.



Editor’s Note: Carrie Gilliam is communications coordinator for the American Angus Association.

2012 Leaders Engaged in Angus Development Conference

Fort Collins, Colo. | “Peak Performance”

Thursday, Aug. 2

2-3 p.m.	Registration
3-5 p.m.	Icebreakers
5 p.m.	Welcome and introductions — Garrett Knebel
5:15 p.m.	Dinner
6 p.m.	Speaker — TBD
6:45 p.m.	Retiring thoughts — Shane Clary
7 p.m.	Hypnotist — Al Snyder
8 p.m.	Retiring thoughts — Garrett Knebel
8:15 p.m.	Team-building activity
8:45 p.m.	NJAA Board skit
11 p.m.	In-room curfew

Friday, Aug. 3

6:45-7:15 a.m.	Breakfast — Marriott
8 a.m.-5:30 p.m.	Ropes challenge course — Colorado State University (CSU)
	Shopping — downtown Fort Collins
	White-water rafting — Wanderlust Adventures and Rocky Mountain Adventures
7 p.m.	Dinner
7:45 p.m.	Retiring thoughts — Lindsey Grimes
8-11 p.m.	Dance — Marriott
11:30 p.m.	In-room curfew

Saturday, Aug. 4 (T-shirt Day)

7-7:45 a.m.	Breakfast — Marriott
8 a.m.	Depart for CSU Agriculture Research, Development and Education Center (ARDEC)
8:30 a.m.	CSU ARDEC
11 a.m.	Retiring thoughts — Alisha Nord
11:15 a.m.	Lunch — CSU ARDEC facility
12:15 p.m.	Depart for Aristocrat Angus
1 p.m.	Aristocrat Angus tour
2:30 p.m.	Depart for Rocky Mountain Sire Services
3:30 p.m.	Rocky Mountain Sire Services tour
4:30 p.m.	Depart for Spruce Mountain Ranch
5:30 p.m.	Spruce Mountain Ranch tour, dinner and entertainment
8:30 p.m.	Retiring thoughts — Austin Brandt
11 p.m.	Depart for Fort Collins
	In-room curfew

Sunday, Aug. 5

7 a.m.	Breakfast — Marriott
7:45 a.m.	Rachel’s Challenge
8:45-10:15 a.m.	Workshops (two per group, one hour each)
10:15 a.m.	“Making Molehills out of Mountains” — Andrew McCrea
11:15 a.m.	Retiring thoughts — Clay Williams
11:30 a.m.	Wrap up and depart