

College of Agriculture hosts third annual Furry 5K

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The College of Agriculture at Arkansas State University held the third annual Furry 5K for students, community members and their furry friends.

An estimated 150 people and 50 dogs attended the Furry 5K.

The College of Agriculture partnered with the organization Ag for Autism.

“We decided to partner with Ag for Autism to help create awareness for autism in the community,” said Abigail Coleman, College of Agriculture event coordinator.

AgforAutism was established in 2012 with Cash River Valley Seed, Armor Seed and Farm Credit. Ag for Autism grants money to organizations and nonprofits supporting autism.

Daniel Pieroni, Treasurer of Ag for Autism, said the organization has given over 90 grants this year with over \$180,000 going to Northeast Arkansas.

Madison Hitchcock, first-year animal science major from Manila, worked the event with the Pre Vet Club at the halfway

mark cheering people on.

Coleman said next year they would try to make the Furry 5K a fundraiser for Ag for Autism.

Mickey Latour, the dean of the College of Agriculture, said the Furry 5K is evolving.

“One of the things that I anticipate for next year is that we’re going to also include places where people can have opportunities to pick up trash along the way,” Latour said.

Men’s division winners:

- 1st place: 23.55 Carson Lutz, 12-year-old cross country runner from Greenbrier.
- 2nd place: 26.07 Nicholas Hilson, A-State Athletics staff member.
- 3rd place: 27.00 3 way tie between A-State Rugby team members Cameron Dowie, Aaron VanDyk, Warrick Day.

Women’s division winners:

- 1st place: 24.28 Marina McDonough, A-State Alumni.
- 2nd place: 24.28 Pauline Meyer, A-State Alumni.
- 3rd place: 28.36 Michaela Rients

Men with dogs division:

- 1st place: 25.57 Merrick Fletcher from Brookland High School, 15-years-old with dog Minnie Mouse.
- 2nd place: 32.35 Ty Sharrow, A-State graduate student studying biological science with dog Bunny.
- 3rd place: 33.30 Zach Harris, A-State Alumni, with dog Boomer.

Women with dogs division

- 1st place: 27.52 Eva Wilk, NYIT program student, with dog Cronus.
- 2nd place: 35.24 Harper Harris, Valley View student, with dog Lady.
- 3rd place: 35.35 Abby Moore with dog Moose.

Cutest dog division

- 1st place: Bernese Mountain Dog Nova with owner Courtney Sears.
- 2nd place: Goldendoodle Miller with owner Trisha Davis.
- 3rd place: Catahoula Leopard Dog Oakie with owner Sarah Watson.



Photos by Shailey Wooldridge

Students and community members walking with their dogs in the Furry 5K.

SOLAR SYSTEM, CONTINUED

Thirteen interactive stanchions allow visitors to explore the solar system. Many will want to start at the Sun, near ABI and Bookout Plaza, but any sequence will work; each stanchion includes a visual guide to the location of the others in relation to campus landmarks. “Just this week, I led two groups of 40 fifth graders through the Voyage Model

Solar System,” added Jill Kary, curator of education at A-State Museum. “The subject matter inspired lots of questions and comments about the sizes of planets and their extreme temperatures. As we walked further and further from the sun, students began to understand why they were asked to walk through the exhibition. They

commented on the vastness of space and the enormous distances between many of the planets.” Harris pointed out three key features of the Voyage Solar System: -- Scale Model: The exhibit features an intricately detailed, scale model of our solar system, complete with accurate representations of planets, moons, asteroids and comets.

-- Interactive Stations: Visitors can engage with interactive stations to learn fascinating facts about each celestial body and the latest discoveries in space exploration. -- Educational Programs: A-State offers educational programs and guided tours for students, families and astronomy enthusiasts. The A-State Voyage Solar System is designed

to inspire curiosity and a sense of wonder about the universe. It encourages visitors of all ages to explore the mysteries of space, fostering a love of science and astronomy. The entrance to the exhibit is conveniently located on the A-State Pedestrian and Cyclist (PAC) Paths, a map of which is online. Interested educators and others may schedule a

guided tour for classes or other groups by contacting Harris, ABI outreach coordinator, rsarris@AState.edu or (870) 680-4340. For additional information about the exhibit, one may follow Arkansas Biosciences Institute on Facebook or visit their website.

ETIQUETTE, CONTINUED

White also brought up how people shouldn’t touch mobility aids or bother service animals. She said touching these things or distracting animals while they are working is an invasion of personal space and is demeaning.

“I am physically disabled,” Wofford said. “I spend some

time in a wheelchair and the number of people who just think they can move me is alarming.”

The director discussed how people with disabilities shouldn’t be viewed as inspirational for existing.

“A person with a disability is not inspiring simply because

they’re out living their life just like you would,” White said. “You might experience some extra challenges in your life, but your disability in itself is not the challenge. It’s the environment that is not accessible to you.”

White reminded the attendees that when using

proper disability language and etiquette, people may still get certain wording wrong. She said there’s nothing wrong with that, people just need to recognize their mistakes and do better in the future.

Sandra Hawkins, an instructor in teacher education,

had their Making Connections class on the Zoom call.

“My Making Connections class students are grateful for this opportunity,” Hawkins said. “This will help us currently on the A-State campus, with our friends as well when we observe in the classrooms with

elementary and middle-level students in the area schools.”

Disability Awareness Week began Oct. 23 and ends Oct. 26. Check the Campus Calendar for a list of upcoming events.

A-State Museum to host Día de los Muertos activities



PHOTO COURTESY OF ARKANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY

Children participate in Día de los Muertos event.

A-STATE NEWS

PRESS RELEASE

Arkansas State University Museum will host its Día de los Muertos, or Day of the Dead, celebration on Thursday, Nov. 2, from 5 until 7 p.m. The museum is adjacent to Dean B. Ellis Library, located at 320 University Loop.

This event is free to the public. Jill Kary, A-State Museum curator of education, said this is a Hispanic cultural event that brings friends and family together to remember

loved ones who have passed on.

“We and the Hispanic community encourage others to gain a broader cultural understanding by experiencing this happy celebration with us,” said Kary.

Those who attend this event will be encouraged to participate in fun, hands-on activities such as face painting, refreshments and sugar skull painting. This will all be done to the beat of the music of troubadour Ricardo Puella.

“Guests to this event smile,

laugh, sing, dance, create and have a marvelous time,” said Kary.

The centerpiece of the event will be an elaborate Día de los Muertos altar known throughout Mexico as ofrenda, meaning offerings. On the ofrenda, guests may leave handwritten notes to loved ones who are no longer with them or display pictures of the beloved deceased.

This event is open to those of all ages. For more information, contact Jill Kary, jkary@AState.edu or by calling 870-972-2074.