



ELKTON FFA



ELKTON CHARTER SCHOOL

ELKTON REPRESENTS OREGON IN INDY

On October 20th, Elkton FFA members travelled to Indianapolis to compete in the National FFA Forestry competition held at the National FFA Convention. Team members included seniors Justin Stubbs and Hunter Rose and juniors Amy Parker, Nick Aviani, Erika Wolfe, and Kaila Trout. The team flew into Indianapolis where they made their way down to Kentucky for three days of intense practice. Even though the road and GPS didn't agree, the team eventually made it to Louisville, safe and sound. The first day, they went to explore the Mammoth Caves and practiced identifying the unfamiliar trees of the East Coast. The second day they met with Doug McLaren, an extension forester



Team members at Fort Harrison from L to R: Erika Wolfe, Justin Stubbs, Hunter Rose, Kaila Trout, Nick Aviani, Amy Parker

from the University of Kentucky. Doug took them to Bernheim Forest to practice various forestry skills including more tree identification, cruising, and some interview techniques. The next day the group worked with Carey Perkins, a private forestry consultant, at a state forest near Louisville. While in Louisville, the group also took an educational tour of the Louisville Slugger Museum. With all their new knowledge, the team was prepared to make their way to the National

FFA Convention in Indianapolis, where the competition was taking place. After they arrived in Indianapolis and checked in at their hotel, they went to the opening session, which was held in the Indiana Pacers Stadium. There were 55,000 FFA members present at the convention from all 50 states, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. On Thursday, the four members of the team competed in the event at Fort Harrison. The

competing members included Hunter Rose, Justin Stubbs, Kaila Trout, and Nick Aviani. The alternates, Erika Wolfe and Amy Parker, visited the Indianapolis Speedway with Mr. Groth. The day after competition, the members were able to tour the convention center, which included a career show with over 300 business and colleges from around

the country. Later in the evening, an awards banquet was held to announce the winners of the competition. The team placed 14th in the nation with each member earning a silver medal. Nick Aviani was high individual on the team. The team would like to thank everyone for their continued support, because without it, members would not have been able to participate in this once in a lifetime experience!

Amy Parker, Team Member

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UPCOMING EVENTS

- * **District Job Interview/Sub-District Creed**
February 6th, Days Creek
- * **District Leadership Skills**
February 13th, Sutherland
- * **FFA Week**
February 17-23
- * **Sectional Leadership Skills**
February 25th
- * **State FFA Convention**
March 22-25, Corvallis (Oregon State University)

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Did you know that each part of the FFA emblem symbolizes part of the organization?

Q: What does the eagle represent?



A: The national scope of FFA.

Spring will be here before you know it! Check out these new varieties in May:

- Petchoa baskets
- Geranium/Bacopa mixed baskets
- New Fuchsia colors
- 6" Osteospermum pots
- 2X as many Calilbra-choa and Double Impatiens baskets
- As well as all your other favorites!

Plant and Sale:
May 31st at FHS



FFA ALUMNI DINNER & AUCTION

On November 15th, the Elkton FFA Alumni held their first annual dinner and benefit auction. The purpose of the event was to help continue their financial support of the Elkton FFA Chapter. Gary Groth (Mr. Groth's father) prepared an amazing tri-tip dinner, and businesses and families from the community donated auction items. In addition to both the live and silent auctions, there was a dessert auction, featuring sweets made by members of our FFA Chapter. Members paraded their desserts around, and the bidding ensued. Deserae Maxwell's cake went for \$250! With over 100 people in attendance, there was high demand for all the items. Some auction items included gravel, firewood, winery baskets, FFA metal art, fishing trips, and *many* more. Between the dinner and the auction the Alumni raised approximately \$7,500 that will be used for scholarships, purchasing jackets, and supporting future FFA events. The Alumni hopes to send a student to Washington D.C. to attend the FFA Washington Leadership Conference next summer. The Alumni's first annual dinner was a huge success and they would like to thank everyone who helped make it possible. With such large attendance, the Alumni is looking at holding next year's event at a larger venue. The Alumni will be holding their annual meeting, January 14th at 6PM at the high school. Membership renewal and officer elections are on the agenda. All Alumni members are encouraged to attend, as well as anyone who is interested in joining the Alumni.



FFA member Kaila Trout shows off her "Pride of Elkton FFA" cake during the dessert auction.

Alyssa Smith, Reporter

OFFICER HIGHLIGHT: JUSTIN STUBBS CHAPTER VICE PRESIDENT

My name is Justin Stubbs and I am a senior at Elkton High School and the current Vice President for our chapter. My career in FFA began my sophomore year when I moved to Elkton, where Agriculture classes are required. Over the course of the year I found that I really enjoyed being involved in FFA and excelled in the Forestry CDE where I helped the team win at both District and State levels. Since then, I have participated in many other CDE's, including: Parliamentary Procedure, Soils, Ag Sales, Rituals, and attended both the state and National FFA

Conventions.

FFA has changed my life for the better and taught me how to be a leader in my school. Aside from serving as a chapter officer, I am also the Student Council Vice President and the FBLA Vice President. FFA has opened my life to so many new opportunities and I am grateful for that.

