

2018 WellsFest to Benefit Growing Up Knowing

JACKSON, Miss. – The 35th annual WellsFest will be held Saturday, Sept. 29, at Jamie Fowler Boyd Park next to Smith-Wills Stadium on Lakeland Drive. Presented by Wells United Methodist Church, the festival has been named one of the Top 20 Events for September 2018 by the Southeast Tourism Society.



Family-friendly, alcohol- and drug-free with no admission or parking fee, WellsFest features: a 5K run and walk (starting at the Mississippi Sports Hall of Fame and following the popular Watermelon Classic race course); a pet parade; nonstop music; a children's play area with pony rides, mini-golf, face-painting

and more; arts and crafts vendors, a plant sale; silent auction and great food.

Pre-festival events that also raise funds for the beneficiary include a golf tournament on Sept. 20 at Live Oak Golf Club and an art auction on Sept. 25 at Duling Hall featuring work created on site by noted Mississippi artists including Wyatt Waters and Ellen Langford.

Over the years, WellsFest has provided nearly \$1.5 million to a wide range of local non-profits. The church chooses a new local beneficiary each year after reviewing applications from numerous nonprofits. This year's beneficiary, Growing Up Knowing, focuses on the prevention of teen pregnancy and sexual abuse of youths.

Growing Up Knowing's programs are available free to afterschool facilities, churches and other community partners. According to Dana Larkin, executive director of the non-profit, association with WellsFest will "inspire more community groups to partner with us to host a Growing Up Knowing program for youngsters and their parents/ caregivers."

For more information about WellsFest, call 601-353-0658 or visit www.wellsfest.org.

MS Science Fest Comes to the LeFleur Museum District for a Third Year

JACKSON, Miss. – In 2016, with support and assistance from The Franklin Institute, the Mississippi Children's Museum piloted the first MS Science Fest. They hosted 23 exhibitors from across the state and saw over 600 visitors to the one-day event. In 2017, working together, the four museums of the LeFleur Museum District (LMD) hosted nearly 100 businesses and agencies and had over 3,300 visitors. Reflecting on the success of the past two years, MCM President & CEO, Susan Garrard saw the evident desire from the community for this event, noting, "STEM jobs are the future of Mississippi. The Mississippi Science Fest is a great way to expose children to educational concepts in an exciting and engaging way, as well as provide them examples of STEM-centered career paths they may have not had the opportunity to ever consider."

This year the festival, set for September 22, has been significantly expanded to include events throughout the LMD, which includes the Mississippi Children's Museum, the Mississippi Museum of Natural Science, the Mississippi Agriculture and Forestry Museum and the Mississippi Sports Hall of Fame and Museum. Admission is \$10 for all four museums.



For more information about the 2018 MS Science Fest, contact Susan Branson, Director of External Affairs, Mississippi Children's Museum at ABranson@mississippichildrensmuseum.com.