

The Currituck Heritage Festival Bulls & BBQ

The Currituck Heritage Festival Bulls & BBQ, established in 2016, is deserving of a grant from Smokin' With Smithfield as it embodies the spirit of our local community, embracing family, local customs and southern barbecue tradition. The event offers a variety of unique experiences including a professional bull riding rodeo and a KCBS Competition among many other heritage activities.

This event is unique because it brings awareness to local organizations instrumental in Currituck's history and heritage such as the local 4-H Chapter, the Historic Jarvisburg Colored School, the Currituck Historic Society and Whalehead Club. It is held on the beautiful grounds of the Currituck County Rural Center overlooking the Currituck Sound. Popular amenities include access to the sound for kayakers/canoes; equestrian indoor and outdoor riding rings, fishing in the two ponds or sound, picnic pavilions and a nature boardwalk. The facility is truly one-of-a-kind with 21 RV Camp sites making it ideal for the KCBS competition and other festival activities. Tourism sponsors this event not only to bring our community together, but to educate and highlight KCBS as well as our home organizations. The day is filled with family activities, an antique tractor demonstration, presentation from the local Stars & Stripes Drill Team, and, of course, barbecue! The festival also features live music by well-known established bands and a choice of local food vendors, if there is an appetite left after the People's Choice Barbecue Tasting.

As the Heritage Festival activities come to a close, the end note to the evening brings even more excitement as cowboys and cowgirls arrive to perform in a professional rodeo. This has become a favorite event for some of the KCBS teams that choose to stay for another night of fun!

The Heritage Festival portion of the day's events are free so families can enjoy all of the activities and demonstrations the day has to offer including a rock climbing wall, wax hands and mechanical bull riding, which is always a big hit. There is, however, an admission fee for the People's Choice Contest and the professional bull riding rodeo.

The inaugural 2017 People's Choice sprang from the community's enthusiasm for the KCBS Competition and the desire to try the barbecue, but it grew into so much more. Currituck Kids rose over \$6,000 towards their grant program over the past three years. Although our festival gives many esteemed non-profits an opportunity to raise awareness for their organizations, the People's Choice Contest directly supports a much deserved non-profit called Currituck Kids as the beneficiary. Currituck Kids provides monetary grants through the County School System and the Department of Social Services to benefit children who would not otherwise receive assistance. Since 2008, Currituck Kids has provided basic needs such as food, clothing, eye-glasses, and hearing aids. They also help with other expenses associated with summer camps, field trips, musical instruments and sporting activities.

The mission of Currituck County Department of Travel & Tourism is to strengthen the local economy by promoting the county as a destination and thereby enhancing the quality of life for Currituck County residents through visitation spending and tourism related business growth. This

event in particular is one of the ways Currituck Travel and Tourism gives back to the local community while also bringing a higher awareness to visitors of the lively culture of Currituck. By partnering with an esteemed organization such as Smithfield for The Currituck Heritage Bulls & BBQ Festival, I believe that the grant program will help strengthen our local economy by attracting more community and visitor interest for The KCBS Sanctioned Competition, spur teams to compete and will significantly improve the quality of life for children in our community through Currituck Kids and The People's Choice Contest.

The KCBS teams are an incredible group of individuals that are a tight knit family that love what they do! It would be an honor to partner with Smithfield for The Currituck Heritage Festival Bulls & BBQ to sweeten the pot for our KCBS teams that work so diligently on the art of barbequing. Thank you for your consideration for the Smokin' With Smithfield Grant.

Our 2019 Grand Champion team; Hamtown Smokers (Joshua Shook & family) sponsored by Smithfield

