

Meet the 2026 Heimatfest Teen Ambassadors

Two outstanding Forest Park juniors will represent Ferdinand youth at this year's Ferdinand Heimatfest. The 30th annual hometown festival will be held Saturday, June 20, in and around Ferdinand's beautiful 18th Street Park.

When it came to choosing a Teen Ambassador this year, two applicants stood out, and judges found it impossible to choose one over the other. So, two remarkable Forest Park juniors will represent their hometown in a most impressive way, as well as add \$500 each to their college fund.



Miranda Rickelman lives and breathes leadership. She is a founding member and current president of Indiana Youth And Government (INYAG). As such, she has traveled

to Indianapolis to participate in mock legislative sessions at the Indiana Statehouse. She hopes one day to work on the "The Hill" in Washington, DC while pursuing a law degree as well as a master's degree in psychology. She has also been an active member of many other extracurricular clubs and organizations, including Rangers for Christ, National FFA Organization, Business Professionals of America, National Honor Society, Forest Park Spell Bowl, Math Bowl and English Bowl, Marching Rangers, Swim Team, Track Team and Student Council. Leadership roles in those and other organizations are numerous. She can add 4-H, 4-H Junior Leaders, National Youth Advocacy Program, Hoosier Girls State and participatory roles at both St. Meinrad and St. Ferdinand churches.

Volunteerism is important to Miranda and she finds time to be of service to others. She has volunteered at Scenic Hills, decorating for holidays to bring smiles. She has devoted many volunteer hours to FFA, harvesting corn, sorting fruit, helping with pedal pulls and with member auctions. BPA has found her working volunteer hours in both regional and state leadership conference projects. Forest Park Band Boosters, 4-H Farm to Future Day and Dove Recovery House for Women have all benefited from her desire to help. She also went on a mission trip to North Carolina with Christ the King Parish-St. Ferdinand Church.

In addition she works part-time, both seasonally and year-round, at Grade A Trucking and Billing Company, Grade A Property Management Company, Tri-County YMCA, Dip Chick Dips & Salsa and as a track, basketball, baseball and softball gate employee.

When asked what one instant change she

could make for our planet, Miranda chose eliminating food insecurity.

Why should she be a Teen Ambassador? "I care about other people, I love to spend time in the community and I'm a great leader!"

That certainly seems to be the case.

Lance Boeglin spends much of his life in service to others. Community service and volunteerism are important considerations when choosing a Teen Ambassador and Lance Boeglin's list seems unending. Christ the King-St. Ferdinand Parish has been the largest beneficiary of his selflessness. During his high school career, he has devoted literally hundreds of hours to the church, most involving children's religious experiences. He has also volunteered at the Community Christmas children's party. On the other end of the spectrum, he's also devoted much of his time at Scenic Hills. Other community service includes the Dubois County 4-H Fair, Junior Leaders Easter egg delivery, Kiwanis Christkindlmarkt booth and many other Christkindlmarkt activities, Farm to Future, Dubois County Dairy Day and Farm Bureau Pancake Breakfast. In addition he worked on the mural in the Ferdinand Elementary Library.

All his work isn't volunteer. He has worked part-time on the Sips and Snacks food truck, Holiday World in the summer and on the family farm (although that falls under the "volunteer" umbrella).

He is or has been a member of many extracurricular clubs and organizations and has held leadership positions in most. He enjoys music, both vocal and instrumental, as a member of the Marching, Jazz and Pep bands, school Musicals and Choir. Lance is

active in FFA, Kiwanis Key Club, National Honor Society, and Art Club. He is also a member of the swim, archery and golf teams. He is proud to have been accepted to attend the National FFA Washington, DC, leadership conference.

If Lance could make an instant change to improve the world, it would be to eliminate pollution. He thinks social media has both helped and hurt society and is totally opposed to cyber bullying.



His definition of success is using teamwork to make things happen.

Why did Lance think he would be a good Teen Ambassador?

"I have good people skills."

Those who know him would likely agree.

First & Main Presented by Jasper Engines and Transmissions



First & Main features Austin Jones, Conor Hart, Will Kimble, and Kendall Bratton. They will be bringing music from your favorite artists like Van Halen, Thin Lizzy, Beastie Boys, AC/DC, Toby Keith and so much more! First & Main has been featured at several notable venues such as Lincoln Amphitheater, The Bluebird, Jeffersonville Riverstage, Hard Truth Distillery, and The Enchanted Forest Music Hall. This will be their second time at the Ferdinand Heimatfest and you won't want to miss it!

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1905 Main St.
Ferdinand, IN
812-367-1618

allstarsports@psci.net