

# Ants March on the Square

The 41st FireAnt Festival took place on Marshall's town square October 14th and 15th and offered food, festivities, and fun for all attendees. The event included a petting zoo, live music, the traditional Tour De FireAnt bike race, classic cars, and plenty of food, arts, and crafts. The FireAnt parade kicked-off the festival, with seniors DeAsia Floyd and CJ Davis representing Texas Early College High School as our Queen and King. TECHS students, their parents, and staff showed up in force to participate in the festival, support our school, and to enjoy the great weather.



In its 41st year, the FireAnt Festival has garnered national attention, being noted by Jay Leno,

Oprah Winfrey, and named as one of the "Top 100 Festival" by Travel Magazine and National Geographic.



"Smoky" brings Mr. Garcia to the festival



De'Asia Floyd and CJ Davis work the crowd

Photos by Isabel Wright and Nevaeh Stephens





**No festival is complete without face-paint**

Initiated in 1982, the FireAnt Festival came to Marshall as a brainchild of then editor of the Marshall News Messenger, George Smith. At a time when the country was in a deep recession, unemployment at 17%, and Marshall having 18 of their top retail stores go out of business, it was hoped that the Festival would bring dollars and business to the area. Forty-one years later, the FireAnt Festival draws thousands to the area.



**A new addition to the Festival, a suds-machine offers good, clean fun for children.**

**A traditional favorite, the petting zoo included a dozen furry, fuzzy, and feathered friends**



**Whether it drives or flies, the classics reign at FireAnt Festival**



**Photos by Isabel Wright and Nevaeh Stephens**



Best of all, the FireAnt Festival brought the TECHS family together....



**Isabel Wright's cousin and niece do a little shopping**



**Jaleigh Littrell and Mom cruise the square**

**Jaydon Perkins and CJ Davis' Moms lend support**



**Joseph Martin and Sister ready to ride**



**Mrs. Pittman and crew Kinley, Blaine, and Brooks stop for a pic**



For some in the TECHS family, FireAnt is not all fun and games – it’s work!



**Mrs. Tijerina, aka Anna Banana, represents the Marshall Music Club**



**Senior Taylor Skinner offers a little java for Joe Pine Coffee**



**Katia Sleazina's Mom, Elena, brings fine arts instruction for Marshall Fine Arts Academy**

For others, FireAnt Festival means memories in the making....

**Brayden Belgard and Mason Avants hanging in the square**



**Jaydon Perkins ready for fun**

