

Special-Edition Mustangs Support EAA Young Eagles

A Ford Mustang has been auctioned off for \$398,000.

The car was a special U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds Edition 2014 Ford Mustang GT developed by the design and engineering teams at Ford Motor Company.

It was sold at the Gathering of Eagles charity auction Aug. 1.

The auction was held during the Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) "AirVenture Oshkosh 2013 – the World's Greatest Aviation Celebration." James Slattery of San Diego was the winning bidder.

All proceeds from the car donation and sale benefit the EAA Young Eagles program, which has provided free introductory flights to more than 1.6 million young people since 1992, said Alan Hall, Mustang Global Communications manager.

The Young Eagles program is designed to help inspire and motivate the next generation of leaders, aviators and innovators.

The U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds Edition joins five other unique Mustangs created by the Ford design and engineering teams for the EAA Young Eagles auction in recent years, each generating excitement among aviation and automotive enthusiasts alike.

Ford vehicles sold at auction during EAA AirVenture events to date have collectively raised more than \$2.5 million to support Young Eagles, Hall said.

"The dedication and excellence displayed by the United States Air Force Thunderbirds are qualities we also celebrate at Ford," said Edsel B. Ford II, a member of the Ford board of directors.

"With this year's beautiful U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds Edition Mus-

tang, we've captured the recognizable symbols of their stature and paired it with the innovation our Ford design and engineering teams build into all of our products.

"Through this project," Ford added, "we take great pride in continuing our support for EAA and the Young Eagles organization."

The U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds Ford Mustang GT celebrates and commemorates the 60th anniversary of the U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds.

The unique car is VIN 0001. The design of the modified 2014 Mustang GT 5.0-liter glass-roof coupe exudes a creative connection to the Thunderbirds, Hall said.

The exterior showcases a custom white paint with red and blue accents, as well as markings and logos, tying it to the Thunderbirds' F-16 Falcon aircraft.

The unique treatment includes wide body modifications and a handcrafted and painted "belly pan" that emulates the F-16 Thunderbird appearance.

TS Designs handcrafted the wide body elements, 3dCarbon created a unique matching fascia, Creations n' Chrome crafted the unique belly pan – plus applied the paint and markings – and Forgiato created custom 22-inch wheels to further differentiate this Mustang from anything else on the road, Hall said.

Unique interior details of the U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds Edition Ford Mustang GT include a modified navigation screen, instrument cluster and rear seat delete. The car's Recaro seats sport embroidered Thunderbirds elements. Additional features consist of unique sill plates and



Special Mustang sits by the military aircraft that inspired its design.

puddle lamps that project the aircraft silhouette when the doors open, Hall said.

Ford Design Manager Melvin Bantcourt and Mustang Chief Nameplate Engineer Dave Pericak led the design and engineering teams that developed the U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds Edition Mustang GT.

The Young Eagles auction is part of the EAA Gathering of Eagles gala. The Gathering of Eagles annually draws more than 1,000 aviation enthusiasts in support of Young Eagles and other EAA programs that inspire young people to become engineers, aviators, astronauts, scientists and innovators – the aviation pioneers of tomorrow, Hall said.

"Ford is a longtime, committed sponsor of EAA and AirVenture, bringing value to those who make Oshkosh the pinnacle of their aviation year," said Jack Pelton, EAA chairman. "These specialty vehicles reflect the depth of Ford's commitment and allow EAA to provide support to its valuable programs and dedicated members in helping us grow the next generation of aviators."

The unique vehicles produced by Ford in support of EAA Young Eagles include the Mustang AV8R, with cues from the F-22 "Raptor," which in 2008 helped introduce the glass-roof canopy and delivered a record auction contribution of \$500,000, Hall said.

Warren Library Sets Workshop for Memoir Writers

The Warren Public Library is holding a writing workshop titled, "Writing Memoir for Personal Growth and Posterity" by author Gloria Nixon-John.

She will share excerpts of her own memoir – as well as the memoirs of other authors – and discuss how memoir writing can be used as a vehicle for personal growth.

Nixon-John will also talk about how attendees can craft their own life stories and preserve them for the future.

The workshop is for adults, 18 and older and beginning, as well as advanced writers.

The workshop will be held between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. in the conference room next to the Civic Center branch of the library.

Room is limited, so those wishing to attend are asked to register in advance by calling 586-574-4564.

For more information, visit www.warrenlibrary.net.

Theater to Hold 5K Run/Walk Aug. 18

Meadow Brook Theatre will hold its 5th annual "Feet for Seats," a 5K run/walk on the campus of Oakland University Aug. 18.

The fundraising event is intended to increase awareness for the professional theater, which has been located on OU's campus since 1966.

"We are honored to have been selected as a Governor's (Council on Physical Fitness) endorsed event," said Meadow Brook Theatre Artistic Director Travis Walter. "Feet for Seats" is such a great community event."

Check-in for the Sunday event

begins at 8 a.m. at the Theatre. The run/walk starts at 9 a.m.

Cost to participate is \$25 in advance or \$30 on the day of the event.

After the event, participants will be invited to watch special performances by the Mike Duncan Band, the Peanut Gallery Players and others.

In addition, participants will be able to order individual tickets to the Theatre's upcoming season immediately following the walk, long before tickets are available to the public.



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