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Bobcat Build strengthens community ties through tradition

SAN MARCOS – Some 4,200 students of Texas State University are getting ready to participate in the 14th annual Bobcat Build, taking place April 2.

Bobcat Build was founded by Texas State students in 2002 in an effort to give back to the community of San Marcos. Students gather to perform acts of community service in one day in order to build the bond between the university and the city.

Since its infancy, Bobcat Build has become a Texas State tradition, and is currently the second largest one-day community service project in Texas.

Volunteers participating in Bobcat Build are assigned to job sites, where they are to help out in some fashion. This year, there are about 270 job sites available to be serviced, according to Bobcat Build co-chair Naomi Faltin.

“I get super excited when I hear homeowners come up to us say they were pleasantly surprised with the work our volunteers completed,” said Faltin. “We’re more than just rowdy college kids. We want to show them we appreciate all they do for us.”

Volunteers get to experience pleasure before they work, however.

Faltin says there is a kickoff party on the morning of Bobcat Build before volunteers are sent out to their job sites.

“Everyone who participates gets a free T-shirt and breakfast,” said Faltin.

In addition to the community’s praise for the community service event, the list of sponsors has grown through the years.

Faltin says that this year they are sponsored by Starbucks, Gils, Dixie Cream Donuts, Monster, Erbert and Gerbert’s, Kind Bars and Dos Gatos.

For more information about Bobcat Build, visit the official website at www.bobcatbuild.txstate.edu. Follow @BobcatBuild on Twitter for photos, videos and updates about the event.

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