



9 September, 2020

## Okie Express Auto Wash & Mike North Serving as Shirt Sponsors for SWOSU Charitable Hunt



Okie Express Auto Wash is serving as shirt sponsor at the upcoming Southwestern Oklahoma State University first-ever charitable hunt hosted by the (SWOSU) Foundation, Inc., in Weatherford.

The hunt—with proceeds providing philanthropic support to SWOSU's Department of Parks & Recreation Management (PRM)—is September 18-19 in Devol (OK) and the foundation is delighted to announce that longtime SWOSU supporter Okie Express Auto Wash is serving as the hunt's shirt sponsor. Okie Express Auto Wash has locations in Edmond, Del City, Moore, Mustang, Warr Acres, Choctaw, Yukon, Southwest OKC, North May OKC, North Western OKC and Norman.

Mike North (SWOSU Class of 1980) of Oklahoma City is the founder and CEO of Okie Express Auto Wash. North and his wife, Marilyn Flinchum, are enthusiastic and generous donors to many SWOSU causes including the SWOSU President's Leadership Class, according to SWOSU Assistant Vice President Garrett King. They are also Founder-level investors in the SWOSU Bulldog Angels Fund, which provides assistance to SWOSU students facing crisis.

"We are deeply grateful to Okie Express Auto Wash and good friends Mike North and Marilyn Flinchum for this generous investment in our Parks & Recreation Management program," said SWOSU President Dr. Randy L. Beutler. "This shirt sponsorship for our first-ever charitable hunt will enable us to successfully raise funds and meaningfully leverage SWOSU's endowment to enhance student learning and faculty development."

Longtime SWOSU benefactors Kandi and Rick Nagel of Norman are serving as the hunt's presenting sponsor and major underwriters. Kandi is a 1998 SWOSU alumnae and past president of the SWOSU Alumni Association.

The SWOSU Department of PRM seeks to facilitate the development of professionals in the fields of conservation management, parks and recreation management, sport management, parks law enforcement and wildland fire management.

Chair Ryan Haggard said the department offers exceptional, specialized coursework and experiences to SWOSU students. Unique and expanding rapidly, SWOSU PRM is the only program of its kind in the region. The proceeds from the hunt will make history at SWOSU as the institution's first endowment benefitting PRM and will help SWOSU to produce the next generation of conservationists, sportsmen and sportswomen, wildlife law enforcement officials, park rangers and many others.

This unique fundraising activity will be facilitated by BlackOak Farms, a full-service bird hunting operation that is integrated with traditional agriculture practices of farming and ranching.

The event will involve a late afternoon/early evening dove hunt on September 18 followed by a cocktail hour, dinner and auction with an early morning dove hunt to follow on September 19.



Only a few individual hunter slots remain. Cocktail hour and dinner-only registration is also available for non-hunters who want to fellowship with SWOSU alumni and friends. For online hunt registration and to see the entire event schedule, visit [www.HuntWithSWOSU.com](http://www.HuntWithSWOSU.com) and contact SWOSU Associate Director for Institutional Advancement Clarke Hale at [clarke.hale@swosu.edu](mailto:clarke.hale@swosu.edu) or 817-707-6795.

The SWOSU Charitable Hunt is being organized by the SWOSU Foundation, Inc., which was established in 1977 to promote philanthropy and distribute funds to support the activities and programs of SWOSU. Located on the Weatherford campus in the historic Burton House, the Foundation currently stewards over \$26 million in assets for the benefit of SWOSU. For more information on the Foundation, call 580-774-3267 or visit [www.SWOSUFoundation.com](http://www.SWOSUFoundation.com).

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