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**New “Make & Take” Booth Supported AWFS®Fair Exhibitors;
*Attendees Donate for Industry Education***

Anaheim, Calif. – August 11 , 2017 -- One of the new show features introduced at the 2017 AWFS®Fair was the “Make & Take” booth, a fun activity where attendees could make a tea light candle holder. This project was made possible by generous donations totaling over \$5,000 in value from AWFS®Fair exhibitors, including Sierra Forest Products who donated all of the solid stock material; Woodworker’s Emporium of Las Vegas who provided the drill presses on loan for the event; Laguna Tools who provided the laser machine on loan; Bessey Tools provided clamps, and OneSource (a 3M distributor) provided safety and finishing supplies. Attendees enjoyed using the Laguna laser machine to customize their candle holders. Booth staff helped attendees program the desired word or phrase into the software and within minutes it was complete.

The Make & Take was hosted by the Society of Wood Manufacturing (SWM) a new AWFS chapter with the purpose to support woodworking education programs and connect schools with industry partners. “The Make & Take booth was a great opportunity for us to connect with AWFS®Fair attendees and share our mission,” says SWM founding President Saúl Martín. “We also raised some money through attendee donations which will be used to support students competing in SkillsUSA woodworking contests.” Volunteers staffed the booth and ran the activity including Martín and Charles Wilson, who also prepared and delivered all of the donated material, and Kevin Walgate of OneSource Distributors. Woodworking educators assisted in the booth as well as some industry celebrities including CTE and SkillsUSA advocate Kayleen McCabe and Kyle Toth of Wood by Toth and “The Dusty Life” woodworking podcast.

For more information about the Society of Wood Manufacturing (SWM), contact AWFS Education Manager Adam Kessler adam@awfs.org or (323) 215-0312.

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About AWFS:

The Association of Woodworking & Furnishings Suppliers® (AWFS), founded in 1911, is a non-profit organization that wholly owns and produces the biennial AWFS®Fair. The largest trade association serving the entire home and commercial furnishings industry, AWFS has more than 400 members, including manufacturers and distributors of machinery, hardware, software, tooling, lumber, components, wood products and supplies for the woodworking industry including cabinet, furniture, millwork and custom woodworking products.

Images, Photo credit: “Focus Event Photography”

“7-20-82” <https://www.dropbox.com/s/n2obtfx1z1n1qz0/AWFS%207-20-82.JPG?dl=0>

Caption: “AWFS Education Manager Adam Kessler helps an attendee make a candle holder at the AWFS Fair Make & Take Booth.”

“7-20-243” <https://www.dropbox.com/s/gqtqvduf6swhoud/AWFS%207-20-243.JPG?dl=0>

Caption: “CTE and SkillsUSA advocate Kayleen McCabe assists an attendee making a candle holder at the AWFS Fair Make & Take Booth.”

“7-21-148” <https://www.dropbox.com/s/34ole945g7byndx/AWFS%207-21-148.JPG?dl=0>

Caption: “Society of Wood Manufacturing chapter President Saúl Martín and volunteer Imelda Reyna networking with attendees at the AWFS Fair Make & Take Booth.”