



October 15, 2018

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2018 RiverFire 5K a Success

Chilly, blustery conditions did not dampen the spirits of 239 runners and walkers registered for this year's 6th Annual RiverFire 5K Run/Walk event which took place on Saturday in conjunction with Berlin's RiverFire festivities.

The 5K event, which this year saw 239 registrants and 210 finishers, serves as a major fundraiser for Response - A Domestic & Sexual Violence Support Center covering all of Coos County. The enthusiasm of the participants combined with the generosity of many local and regional businesses lead to the events most successful year yet.

The RiverFire 5K caters to runners and walkers of all abilities with participants covering a scenic out and back course from Heritage Park to White Mountain Lumber Company and back. Though the course avoids much of the hilly terrain characteristic of Berlin, participants this year had to deal with threatening showers and chilly headwinds.

The race was dominated by members of the Berlin High School Cross Country Team with Kolbe Delafontaine winning in a time of 19:00, followed closely by teammates Joe Young and Sam Stiles. First place woman's finisher went to Weeks Medical Center podiatrist Tara Soraghan in a time of 22:59 followed by Kelly Miller and Rianna Roberts.

Participants ranged in age from 5 years old (Henry Reid and Ava Diroma) to two octogenarians (Dolores Bird and Gayle Waitkins). Age group awards were given three deep in 16 divisions with many outstanding performances recorded within these divisions.

The RiverFire 5K Run/Walk encourages groups of family, friends and co-workers to participate as teams of 3 or more. This year's event featured 13 teams with four team awards presented. The top three fastest teams (times of the top three runners/walkers added together) are recognized and a special, noncompetitive award is given to the "Best Themed Team".

The top three fastest team awards this year went to the Berlin High School XC Team (Delafontaine, Young, Stiles), 2nd place to Team Landry (top runners Rich Landry, Neil Gagne and Michael Novak), and 3rd place to The Green Skeletons (top runners Chad Roberge, Sam Aldrich and Jeremy Michalik). The Best Themed Team award was presented to Team

#AngieStrong, this year's largest team, participating together in the fight to end domestic violence.

Other teams noteworthy for their uniqueness were Fun & Fabulous Friends & Family, Family Shenanigans, and The Suture Heroes comprised of members of AVH's Surgical Staff. Complete individual, age group and team results of this year's RiverFire 5K Run/Walk event can be viewed at www.secondwindtiming.com.