

Press Release

Springfield, Missouri, Convention & Visitors Bureau

For immediate release: September 18, 2009

Contact:

- Marisa DeClue, Developmental Center of the Ozarks, 417-829-0896, mdeclue@DCOonline.com
- Bob Nelson, Park Board, 417- 874-2176, bnelson@springfieldmo.gov.
- Susan Wade, CVB Public Relations Manager, 417-881-5300, Ext. 101 (office), 800-678-8767, Ext. 101 (office), 417-830-0645 (cell), 417-863-8471 (home) or swade@springfieldmo.org

Registration Under Way for 15th Thanksgiving Day Turkey Trot in Springfield, Mo.

Springfield, Mo.—The tradition carries on with the opening of registrations for the 15th Annual Thanksgiving Day Turkey Trot to benefit Developmental Center of the Ozarks (DCO) and the Springfield-Greene County Park Board Scholarship Fund.

Last year, more than 5,000 runners “trotted” their way through the streets of Center City and Downtown Springfield. The 5K Run/Walk draws runners from across the United States. Runners donated 5,475 pounds of food in 2008. Again this year, runners are asked to bring three canned food items for Ozarks Food Harvest.

Turkey Trot is recognized as the largest Thanksgiving Day race in Missouri and is the largest annual race in southwest Missouri.

Regal Beloit, Empire Bank, and O’Reilly Auto Parts are presenting sponsors of this year’s Trot. Official timing for each registered runner will be provided through UltraMax.

RACE DETAILS:

- Time/Date: 8 a.m., Thursday, Nov. 26
- Registration is now open at www.active.com and www.parkboard.org
- \$20 - Registrations before Friday, Nov. 20 (or postmarked 11/18/09)
- \$25 – Registrations postmarked/received after Friday, Nov. 20
- Race route will be posted on www.parkboard.org. This is a USTAF certified course.
- Race starts at the Springfield Expo Center, 635 E. St. Louis St.
- Awards will be given to males and females finishing in the top three of each age division

TRAINING FOR THE TROT: NEW!!!

- Training dates: September 29 – November 17
- Session time and day: 6 p.m., Tuesdays
- Registration deadline: Extended until Friday, Sept. 25
- Location: first session is at Phelps Grove Park in Springfield (locations rotate)
- Cost to participate: \$45 (includes Training for the Trot and Turkey Trot)

This is your chance to train with a seasoned runner and learn the ropes of participating in a 5K race. Over the course of eight weeks, beginning-level runners will prepare not only their bodies, but also their minds, for the purpose of completing a race like the Turkey Trot. Course instructor Richard Johnson has completed more than 100 marathons, developed a computer-based time predictor, and has an absolute love of the sport.

ABOUT THE CHARITIES:

The Developmental Center of the Ozarks (DCO) serves infants, children, and adults who are developmentally disabled, developmentally delayed or physically disabled, as well as those who are not, through therapeutic, educational, habilitative and rehabilitative programs. DCO holds as its greatest responsibility to promote personal growth through teaching those skills necessary for all citizens of our community to lead full and productive lives.

The Springfield-Greene County Park Board Scholarship Fund is available for those who meet income guidelines and want to participate in a Park Board program. Year-round scholarships are limited and intended to assist those who could not otherwise pay for program fees. Call the Park Board offices for more information at (417) 864-1049.

xxx