

Milton Foundation for Education

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Milton Monster Dash Set for October 30

By Ed Hayward
Milton Foundation for Education

Fun runners can give their Halloween costumes a test at the Seventh Annual Milton Monster Dash, which will take place Sunday, October 30, at 1 p.m. to raise money to support science enrichment programs in the Milton Public Schools.

The race is the primary fundraiser for the Sam Cichello Memorial Fund, which has been used to bolster science teaching in the Milton schools since seven-year-old Sam died in 1999. In the last six years, the fund has supported field trips, classroom lessons and last year partially funded an elementary science enrichment specialist.

The five kilometer fun run/walk begins at 1 p.m. from Cunningham Park. A children's fun run will take place as well, said Steve Windwer, a Milton Foundation for Education board member who organizes the race.

"Our biggest goals are to remember Sam and to have a great time," said Windwer. "What's great about the Monster Dash is that every year the core group of Monster Dashers reappears. And each year they bring with them new neighbors, new runners, new walkers and volunteers. We're looking forward to another great day."

Last year, approximately 350 runners and walkers participated in the Monster Dash and helped to raise roughly \$12,000 to support innovative science teaching and learning programs in the town's elementary schools.

Sam's Fund has brought a range of science education services to the schools to promote the subject Sam enjoyed the most.

The support for the event last year included not just the usual unusually scary group of ghosts and goblins running the 3.1-mile course, but saw increased participation by some of the town's youngest runners.

Two Girl Scout troops registered their entire memberships and ran the race. At the Tucker School, students paid \$1 to be allowed to wear a hat to school for a day. Principal Pamela Mason said students brought spare change and others paid even though they didn't have a hat to wear. In all, the Tucker students donated more than \$100.

The Monster Dash covers slightly more than three miles, starting at Cunningham Park, down Edge Hill Road, to Randolph Avenue, down Centre Street, to Brook Road, up Otis Street and back down Edge Hill to the finish line at the Cunningham Foundation Hall. Race entry fee is \$18 up to October 17 and \$20 afterwards. The kids' fun run is \$10.

For those who cannot attend the race, donations can be sent to:

Milton Monster Dash
% Jeanne Schmidt
4 Franklin Street
Milton, MA 02186-5522
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