



Karen Parks and Marianne Thornton inspect T-shirts to be given runners

Wildflower Run

Local AAUW members prepare for 440 runners to participate

By Wendy Stitt
Times Staff Writer

All wildflower entrants to the starting block. On your mark, get ready, get set, GO.

The Wildflower Run has begun. Well, not just yet. But people are preparing for the big run which is scheduled for April 9, at 9 a.m. at Live Oak High School.

Proceeds go to the American Association of University Women's Education Foundation Program for fun, health, community and charity.

Getting the family involved in the run is the focus of this year's event. According to organizers it appears from telephone calls and entry forms there will be several families running.

Everything indicates the 1988 Wildflower Run will be the same as the previous four years since the event's inception in 1983. But one thing will be different. A couple of men will be hanging around the sidelines. Normally that wouldn't seem too strange, but this year those men won't just be bystanders. No, they are two members of the AAUW.

Early last year the organization voted overwhelmingly at its biennial convention to adopt an amendment to its bylaws allowing men to join.

In April 1987, the Morgan Hill branch voted 28-6 to allow male members into the organization.

The national AAUW's decision about whether to change its bylaws rested with the Supreme Court's ruling in the Rotary Club issue. The Rotary Club dispute started in Durante when members admitted women to the club. As a result, the Rotary International dropped the Durante's charter, and they in turn took the club to court.

But now things have settled down and preparation for the Wildflower Run is in full force.

The silver grey T-shirts have arrived as well as wildflower seeds for each participant. There will be Calistoga Sparkling Mineral Water, posters, medals, awards, and prizes.

Local merchants have been extremely supportive, according to Marilyn Gadway, who is the sponsor's chairwoman.

Hoaglund's Floor Covering, located at Candy Park, contributed \$500 this year, and South Valley National Bank donated \$250. A \$100 contribution sponsored each mile and bright California poppy orange signs along the course at the mile markers indicate the sponsoring business.

Money isn't the only thing supporting the race. The Snak Shak committee will make hot chocolate, brew coffee and provide donuts for the runners in the early morning chill on race day. The publicity committee will distribute information from San Francisco, Walnut Creek, Salinas, Monterey, and Santa Cruz.

The Wildflower Run is the local AAUW chapter's fundraising effort for the national organization's Educational Foundation Program, which awards \$1 million annually in grants, fellowships and awards for women in higher education and for special projects.

The run was the 1983 brainchild of Marilyn Gadway. The first race was held the following spring and attracted 250 runners. Gadway's careful recordkeeping allowed the race to continue in 1985 under Kay Jenny-Spencer, who was chairwoman in 1985 and 1986. Gadway was director again last year.

AAUW's annual Wildflower Run, involves the work of more than 90 women.

Putting together the two, five, and 10-kilometer runs for an expected 400 racers takes nine separate committees. Never accused of putting things off to the last minute, officials begin planning the next year's race the day after the last race.

Entry forms for the race are available at South Valley National Bank in both Morgan Hill and Gilroy, Second Sole in Tennant Station, Sun Sports in Gilroy, and Hoaglund's Floor Covering at Candy Park in Morgan Hill. Registration fees are \$12. There will be registration on race day beginning at 8 a.m. All races start at 9 a.m.