

The Morgan Hill Times

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http://www.morganhilltimes.com/news/community/aauw-s-wildflower-run-returns-for-april/article_e8f6b58c-250b-5bc3-b6f5-7265e43a9cfd.html

AAUW's Wildflower Run Returns for April 2007

Annual event raised \$17,500 last year for local scholarships, grants

BY TONY BURCHYNYS STAFF WRITER

MORGAN HILL - Runners looking for a good cause won't be fooled when the 24th Wildflower Run returns April 1.

The American Association of University Women, Morgan Hill branch, will sponsor the event, which includes a 5K walk/run, a 10K run and a 2K run for children 12 and under. Proceeds from the day support education for women and girls. Locally, the AAUW awards scholarships for high school girls and sends five middle schoolers to Tech Trek, a week-long math-science camp for girls at Stanford University in the summer. Funds from the Wildflower Run also benefit the Morgan

Hill AAUW's endowment for graduate research, which provides an annual grant for a graduate woman continuing her research.

Last year's event attracted more than 500 runners and raised \$17,500. Organizers expect the same success this year and are even making the event more family-friendly with face painting for kids.

"It's definitely becoming more of a family event," said AAUW member Barbara Palmer, who's in charge of the Wildflower Run this year. "A lot of families do come out, kids in strollers with moms pushing in the 5k ... even the dog comes. We're trying to make it more of a family focus."

As usual, the event will start and finish at Live Oak High School, 1505 East Main Ave. The race courses will follow paved roads through the scenic country surroundings of outer Morgan Hill.

Free Jamba Juice smoothies will be available to all runners and winners in different age categories will be awarded medals and other prizes. Pre-registrants get first choice of the always popular T-shirts and are entered automatically in a drawing for door prizes, including gift certificates for restaurants.

Runner check-in and same-day registration begins at 7:30am. The 2K run for kids starts at 8:30am, the 10K at 9am and the 5K at 9:15am.

Fees are \$25 for those who register by March 20 and \$30 thereafter. A family rate of \$50 covers up to three people (immediately related) with additional family members costing \$10 each. Registration forms are available at aauw-morganhill.org. For more information, reach Wendy Bell at (408) 778-3924 or wendyrbell@charter.net.

The Wildflower Run is the premier fundraiser



SPECIAL TO THE TIMES

The AAUW's Wildflower Run of 2006 shown in full progress. The event, which raises money to support education programs, will return to Morgan Hill April 1.

for the Morgan Hill branch of the AAUW, which was founded 25 years ago. Charter member Marilyn Gadway, a former recreation department director for the cities of Palo Alto, San Jose and Fremont, helped start the annual event to raise money for educational opportunities for girls and women.

"A lot of AAUWs did lots of little fundraisers. We decided if we did one big fundraiser, it would make things easier," Gadway told The Times last October as the chapter prepared to celebrate its

25th birthday.

The Morgan Hill AAUW includes 22 board members and about 125 members. The national AAUW, promoting social justice and equal educational opportunities for girls and women since 1881, includes more than 100,000 members, 1,300 branches and 500 college and university partners.

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2007 WILDFLOWER RUN

■ **When:** Sunday, April 1. Runner check-in, same-day registration at 7:30am. 10K runs starts at 9am. 5K run/walk starts 9:15am. 2K run for kids 12 and under starts 8:30am.

■ **Where:** Live Oak High School, 1505 E. Main Ave., Morgan Hill.

■ **Run Registration:** Entry forms available at www.aauw-morganhill.org. Register online at www.active.com. For more information reach Wendy Bell at (408) 778-3924 or wendyrbell@charter.net.

■ **Registration Fees:** \$25 by March 20; \$30 after March 30. Family fee, including three people, \$50.