

***Run Wild!* at The Wilderness Center for Earth Day**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE (February 23, 2021) Wilmot, OH -- The Wilderness Center's (TWC) annual Earth Day race has a new name, new look and a new energy as it resumes following last year's cancellation. The public is invited to *Run Wild!* on the trails this April 24th to enjoy the beauty of nature, celebrate Earth Day, and support TWC.

Take on the timed 10K or 5K, or bring the whole family out for the One-Mile Fun Run! A virtual race option is also available for those who would prefer it. As with past races, awards will be given to the top male and female racers in each of the following age groups: 13 & under, 14-18, 19-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, and 60 and over, as well as the top male and female overall in both the 5K and 10K. Special awards categories will also be added for this year's virtual participants.

The Wilderness Center and MidOhio Race Management are committed to presenting a safe, responsible in-person racing experience. Runners will be released every 10 - 15 seconds, beginning with the faster runners first, to avoid any congestion at the start line and ensure that each runner will enjoy a peaceful and socially-distanced run along our trails. Start times and additional instructions will be emailed during race week.

TWC's Nature Center will be closed to the public during *Run Wild!* to decrease the risks associated with congregating indoors. Masks will be required for all attendees, with runners permitted to remove them once they are out on the trail. There will be no on-site awards ceremony this year, but we hope everyone will join us for a live awards ceremony on TWC's Facebook page at 12:00 p.m. to celebrate our winners!

Each registration will include a high-quality race t-shirt, after-event snacks and drink, and maybe even a medal! Registration will also help TWC engage the next generation and encourage learners of all ages to appreciate the natural world through school classes and educational programs for children and families. This support enables TWC to conserve 4,000 acres of natural land in the community and guide the management of nearly 15,000 acres of privately owned forest. It also allows TWC to serve as a resource to help community members to make positive changes in their own backyards.

Register online at midohiorm.com. Participation will be limited, so those interested in taking part should not delay. Any questions related to the COVID-19 policies in effect for *Run Wild!* should be directed to midohiorm@gmail.com.

Attached Picture: Izzy McRobie is pictured running the 5K race along The Wilderness Center's trails in 2019.

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The Wilderness Center
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wildernesscenter.org

Founded in 1964, **The Wilderness Center** is a private non-profit organization dedicated to connecting our community with nature, educating people of all ages, and conserving natural resources. Through the generosity of individual supporters, corporations and foundations, The Wilderness Center offers a wide-range of ecological programming for all ages and protects approximately 4,000 acres of natural land across the state of Ohio.