

Rubber ducks help make outreach, scholarships

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Scholarship and outreach funds made possible by rubber ducks

A thousand rubber ducks will float down the Letort Spring Run on April 25 as part of the 2009 Carlisle Barracks Spouses Club Rubber Duck Derby. The annual event provides funds for scholarships and Carlisle Barracks and Carlisle-area organizations. File photo by Megan Clugh.

April 23, 2009 -- Imagine close to 1,000 patriotic-themed rubber ducks floating down the Letort Spring Run. Well, if you are on Carlisle Barracks on Saturday, April 25, you will see exactly that.

Held in conjunction with the annual Jim Thorpe Sports Days, the Duck Derby is sponsored by the Carlisle Barracks Spouses Club.

"Proceeds from the Derby are divided between Scholarships and Outreach," said Tony Gray, Spouses Club Outreach Coordinator. "The Scholarship Committee provides funds to Carlisle Barracks military children based on merit and the Outreach Committee provides funds to community organizations based on the evaluation criteria found in the application form," he said.

The Derby begins at noon with the ducks being released, actually dumped, into the Letort at the starting point behind the Letort View Community Center. The float will take approximately 20 to 25 minutes for the ducks to reach the finish line which is located between Barry Drive and the Carlisle Barracks Bowling Center. Money and prizes will be awarded for various categories. Prizes were donated by Carlisle and Gettysburg businesses.

A separate race for children, the Jr. Duck Derby, will start at 11:30 a.m. Prizes will also be awarded.

"It will be a fun thing for everyone to watch," said Bowers.

"We have had a great time putting this all together; the committee volunteers have gone over and above," said Laurel Bowers, Duck Derby Coordinator, aka "Head Quack." "The funds raised are going to good causes," she said.

With the help of the Carlisle Cub Scout Pack 173, a wet run, to make sure all 1,000 ducks would float, was conducted on Saturday, April 4. Cub Scouts helped to clean the Letort of any debris that would create a duck jam and assisted with retrieving the ducks. Participating Scouts will receive a Leave No Trace Award or community service credit.

Ducks will be available for adoption on Thursday, April 24 at the Root and Thorpe Hall gyms from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. and on Friday, April 25, on Indian Field from 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Prices for ducks are \$5 each or \$20 for five; Jr. Derby ducks are \$1 each.

You do not have to be present to win.