

Jason's memory leads to 5K race

ANDERSON TWP. – In less than three years following the death of Turpin High School graduate Jason William Hunt, his legacy continues through a foundation, an annual 5K race, and now an outdoor training center and motorcycle ride.

As a mentor in outdoor wilderness schools, Jason Hunt used his outdoor skills, his energy, and his compassion to help at-risk teens discover their inner value.

He was just beginning to come into his own when an unfortunate mountain climbing accident took his life on Oct. 13, 2001, in Squamish, B.C., near Vancouver.

The Jason William Hunt Foundation begins where Jason left off. Founded by his family, the foundation perpetuates Jason's spirit and love as exemplified through his work with at-risk kids in an outdoor experiential setting.

One of the biggest foundation fund-raisers is Jazzin' in July, a 5k run/walk race that kicks off the annual Greater Anderson Days celebration.

With the Anderson Park District and the Anderson Hills Kiwanis Club, the foundation will donate proceeds from Jazzin' in July for the new Outdoor Leadership Training Center at the Beech Acres Recreation & Arts Center and to renovate the "All-Children's Playground" at Veterans Park.

This year's race will take place at 7 p.m. Friday, July 30, in Beech Acres Park, 6910 Salem Ave.

Another foundation fundraiser is "Cruisers & Boomers," a motorcycle ride from Kellogg Park to Beech Acres Park on the Sunday evening of Anderson Days – the same evening as the Beechmont Automotive Group's Finale Fireworks.

As you mark your calendar for Greater Anderson Days, there is another event worth attending. The JWH Foundation and the APD will host the grand opening of the Jason William Hunt Outdoor Leadership Training Center on Thursday, June 3. The evening will include ropes course demonstrations, light refreshments and festive music.

Special guest Kristin "KT" DeSantis, a 2004 Summerfair participant, will display her



Runners participate in last year's Jazzin' In July race to kick off Greater Anderson Days in memory of Jason William Hunt.

work and donate a percentage of her sales to benefit the OLTC. KT is a contemporary metal and mixed media artist and the creator of the Jason W. Hunt Foundation logo.

Ticket prices are \$25 in advance and \$30 at the door. A portion of the ticket price is tax deductible.

More information is available at andersonparks.com

regarding Outdoor Experiential Education, the Outdoor Leadership Training Center and the Veterans Park Playground along with online registration and printable forms for Jazzin' In July, Cruisers & Boomers, and the OLTC grand opening.

Call 474-0003 ext. 5083 with questions.

