Fall colors expected for 5K at Botanical Garden

THE JOURNAL STAFF

CLEMSON — Fall foliage will provide the scenery when runners gather at the South Carolina Botanical Garden for a 3.1-mile run to raise money for a Clemson University student group.

The public is invited to participate in the third annual 5K Fit Run, set for Oct. 22, and can register at bit.ly/FitRun2016, the school announced in a news release Wednesday.

The off-road course in Clemson will follow the Garden Trail through the botanical garden's rolling woodland at a time of year when the trees are usually bursting with vibrant reds, yellows and oranges.

The $20 registration fee includes a T-shirt and access to a photo booth among the post-run activities. The cost rises to $25 starting Oct. 10.

Mohan Valluri, a graduate student who is serving as race director, said he expects this year to be the biggest yet for the Fit Run.

"We've moved this year's course to the botanical garden in response to the many requests we've received," he said. "Those who want to participate ought to sign up early to ensure they secure a spot. The Tigers have a bye week, so there will be no football game that day. It's the perfect time to make the Fit Run the centerpiece of your weekend."

The run will be timed by Go-Green Events and is organized by CESSAB, the student advisory group that serves the College of Engineering, Computing and Applied Sciences and the new College of Science.

Students use the funds they raise during the Fit Run to hold networking events throughout the school year, ranging from movie nights to conferences.



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Students train for the Fit Run, which will be held Oct. 22 at the South Carolina Botanical Garden.

Sydney Paul, who is helping organize the run, encouraged runners to like the Fit Run on Facebook to receive updates.

"We're using social media to keep runners up to date with the latest race news," she said. "We'll be posting the T-shirt design, fall color forecasts, information about who is participating and much more. You just might see someone you know."

Race news will also be unveiled on Twitter @ClemsonCECAS and Instagram @clemsoncecas.

This year's run starts at 8 a.m. on the Garden Trail between Perimeter Road and the Bob Campbell Geology Museum. The run ends near the museum.

Online registration closes at 11:59 p.m. Oct. 16, but you can also register in person at packet pickup or on race day.

Packet pickup will be Oct. 20 and 21 in Riggs Hall 100a, running from 9:30 to 11 a.m. and 3:30 to 5 p.m. both days.

The Clemson football team does not have a game the weekend of the race.