Tigers for Tigers 5K set for Sunday at Botanical Garden

BY ERIC SPROTT
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CLEMSON — Thanks to a study abroad trip to India during his freshman year, Clemson University junior Alex Rubin doesn't only associate tigers with his school's athletic program.

On the contrary, the Anderson native thinks of the actual big cats themselves, and he's doing his part to help save them through his involvement in the Clemson chapter of Tigers for Tigers — a national coalition that helps raise awareness, promotes legislation and raises funds to help protect the endangered species.

"I actually got to see a tiger in the wild, which was amazing," said Rubin, the philanthropy chair for the Clemson organization. "After that, I joined the club, and we're hoping to make a difference for tiger conservation."

On Sunday, the Clemson chapter of Tigers for Tigers — the oldest college chapter in the nation — will hold one of its most-anticipated events with its sixth annual 5K run/walk at the South Carolina Botanical Garden. All funds raised will be donated to Tiger Trust in India, which works to protect wild tigers and their habitats.

Race-day sign-in will begin at 7:15 a.m., with the event scheduled to get underway at 8 a.m. along a course that will be friendly to both pets and strollers. The deadline to register is today, and Rubin is encouraging anyone interested in participating to get signed up as soon as possible.

"The last time I checked, we had around 80 people, which is more than we had last year," he said. "We're looking forward to it, and we always provide breakfast for the runners, too, so that'll be afterward, and people can hang out and eat breakfast while we hand out prizes and talk a little bit about our club."

Though the deadline has passed for guaranteed T-shirts for the event, Rubin said there will be some extras available on a limited basis Sunday. Those taking part in the event are asked to park in the parking lot nearest to the Bob Campbell Geology Museum and the SCBG visitor's center. Overflow parking will be at the Lightsey Bridge apartments, and participants are asked not to park in the SCBG's primary parking lot near the red caboose.

To register for the event, visit tinyurl.com/zfa28h7.

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