

Indiana County Office of Planning & Development

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Date: June 12, 2019

Media Contact: Barbara Hauge, Indiana County WalkWorks Program Manager 724-422-1749

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wrap Up of the 3rd Annual Indiana County Decathlon and Planning for the 4th!

INDIANA, PA (June 12, 2019) – Thank you to the event leaders and to all who participated in the 3rd Annual Indiana County Decathlon. We had a total of 488 participants for all 16 events. At Nature Palooza in Blue Spruce Park we awarded 5 hand-carved Walking Sticks (carved by Ed Cochran and Frank Peters) and 1 Wildflower Guide Book to participants who earned 10 stamps on their cards by participating in our events.

For anyone who has earned 10 stamps and hasn't picked up their prize yet, you can still pick up prizes at the YMCA until Monday, June 17.

We are already planning next year's 4th Annual Indiana County Decathlon. Our planning meeting is on **Thursday, July 25 at 4:30 pm** at the Indiana County Office of Planning & Development. We will be recapping this year's event and compiling ideas for next year's decathlon.

The Indiana County Decathlon is held each year between January and May. Events are organized to encourage outdoor and indoor activities. Folks are introduced to fun locations in Indiana County. WalkWorks of Indiana County, Indiana County Parks & Trails, and the YMCA of Indiana County along with a group of dedicated volunteers organize the Indiana County Decathlon events. All events were FREE with the level of difficulty noted. Ed Patterson, Director of Indiana County Parks & Trails requested the Chili Walk at Blue Spruce be repeated each year since it is so popular.

Barbara Hauge, Program Manager for Indiana County WalkWorks noted, 'We are thrilled with the number of people who joined us on our events this year. The ultimate prize by participating is to take Steps to a Healthier You, and we are happy to provide events that folks enjoy.'

We would like to thank the following for their generous contributions supporting the 2019 Decathlon; First Commonwealth Bank, Greek Catholic Union, NAACP of Indiana County, B&B Screenprinting, Gingerbreadman Running Co., Indiana Regional Medical Center, Kuzneski Insurance Group, Luigi's Ristorante, The Yoga Tree, Indiana County Tourist Bureau, Downtown Indiana, Friends of the Parks, Indiana Gazette, Renda Broadcasting, MedExpress, InFirst Bank, Clymer Borough, Ed Patterson, Ray Winsted, Indiana County Parks & Trails, Tiffany Chan, Cindy Rogers, Nicole Dann-Payne and the IUP Dietetic Interns, Jim Klyap, John Busovicki, The Todd Bird Club, Dr. Kevin Patrick and Dr. Stacey Patrick, Game Warden Chris Reidmiller, Dr. Jerry Pickering, Leslie Stenger and the IUP Exercise Science Students, Lisa Meadows, Indiana Schwinn Cycling Center, Trailz End Bike

Shop, Jack Maguire, Brian and Lynne Jones and all of the musicians (Bill M., Chuck Potthast, Bill Menk, Al Craigie, Dave Ferguson, and Jason Gamble).

Stay up to date on our 2020 Indiana County Decathlon by liking us on Facebook at Indiana County Walking Decathlon.

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WalkWorks is a collaboration between the Indiana County Office of Planning & Development, Pennsylvania Department of Health, and the University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health to increase opportunities for physical activity across Indiana County. Through this grant funded program, planners partner with local communities to identify walking routes and form sustainable walking groups that will enhance and expand active transportation networks with the ultimate goal of improving the health of county residents. There are 9 walking routes in Indiana County.

*More information is available on the Indiana County Walking Decathlon facebook page, Indiana County Office of Planning & Development's website <http://icopd.org/indiana-county-walkworks-program.html> and social media platforms: [YouTube](#); [Twitter](#); [Instagram](#); [Facebook](#). Specific questions should be directed to **Barbara Hauge 724-422-1749***

-----NOTHING FOLLOWS-----