

Less than six months to go, Bluff Land Tri Committee sets goal of 100 participants

The Foundation for Rushford-Peterson Schools gave out a record 11 \$500 scholarships last year. The scholarships are funded through four events: Bluff Land Tri, Bluff Land Tri Kids' Challenge, Fall Feast and a general donation drive.

This year marks the seventh year of the Bluff Land Tri and this year's committee has a goal of registering 100 participants for the event scheduled for August 15.

The number of participants has bounced between 30 to 80 from year to year. Like any fundraising event, the committee wants to see growth.

"We are at a point where we want to see growth in participation numbers or figure out a different event that appeals to a wider audience in the future," said Brenda Tesch, committee chair.

Most triathlons are a swim, bike and run event. The Bluff Land

Tri takes into account the natural beauty of the Rushford Peterson Valley. It's a 3.1 mile run, 15.5 mile bike, both on the Root River Bike Trail, and a 2.1 mile hike up and down Magelssen Bluff. You can't get much more picturesque than running and biking along the Root River and seeing the panoramic view from Magelssen Bluff.

Tesch says people should not be intimidated by participating in triathlon.

"We do have a few participants who are really competitive in standard run, bike and swim triathlons that come out and are challenged by our triathlon," explained Tesch. "But, the majority of participants are local families and groups of friends entering to challenge themselves, and sometimes that challenge is simply being able to say they participated in and finished a triathlon.

If you are not up to the commitment level of doing the full triathlon as an individual, there is a team category. It is perfect for families, friends and coworkers who would rather commit to one element of the event rather than all three.

Sometimes a person just needs a little motivation to get moving during the winter months. Committing today gives participants six months to gear up and be ready.

Sign-up for the Bluff Land Tri is online at www.foundationfor-rushpeterschools.org. Cost for an individual is \$50 and teams are \$60. There is special pricing for participants 18 and under. All proceeds go to fund scholarships for senior high school students and the Angel Fund which assists with the personal needs of children K-12 at Rushford-Peterson Schools.