
A good day for mud

Sixteenth annual Mud Run challenges teams, raises money

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The U.S. Marine Corps Ultimate Challenge Mud Run attracted 7,200 people from all over the country to give the challenge their best shot on Saturday at the McGrady Training Center.

Participants, who came from 22 states, entered in the competition in teams of four and were thrilled to participate.



Chad Simmons / THE DAILY GAMECOCK

Teams of four competed in the Mud Run, and completed tasks such as carrying a teammate.

“It’s a great experience for anybody,” said Laura Beth Jones, a second-year runner. “It’s scary and exhilarating, but still it’s the most fun I’ve had all year. The obstacles are psychologically and emotionally challenging, while being unexpected and frightening,” she said.

Jones, 32, is a personal trainer from Sumter. Her team consisted of mothers who wanted to stay in shape. Jones thinks that the Mud Run makes great memories, but one must have the courage to do it and get over their fears.

“It really brings out the inner soldier that everyone has in them,” she said.

The Mud Run challenge started 16 years ago, and has become very popular and profitable throughout the years.

Tom Yeoman, a retired Lt. Colonel, said the Mud Run started out with three parts: hills, a one-mile run and the obstacle course. Yeoman, 58, said this is his fourth or fifth Mud Run.

“We knew it was going to grow,” Yeoman said.



almost 30 courses, involving a 4.2 mile route, many hills
 mmming through mud. There is also a Mini Mud Run for
 which had 1,000 attendants.

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mud for the event, which also serves as a fundraiser for
 ion. The foundation offers scholarships to Marine
 families. Registration is \$30-40 per person, depending on when you sign up. It is estimated
 that three teams sign up every minute, which is basically \$400 per minute earned.
 Blanchard volunteer Alison Hawsey hopes that \$80,000 will be generated from the revenue.

Numerous people have become very interested in the program, Hawsey said. "I just like to
 support making a difference for those who make a difference for us."

The Learning Channel was out filming the activities and had their own team participating.
 Vitamin Water, Subway and Piggly Wiggly were also there to support the cause, along with 24
 other sponsors.

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