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Multiple Joy in Action events this summer, expanding into southern Manitoba

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For the first time, the Joy in Action run, walk, and bike event is turning into three events this summer to reach even more people.

"This year, **Joy in Action** is going to be held in three different locations," says Natasha Smith, the organizer of the events for the Joy Smith Foundation. "The Steinbach location is happening on July 25. We're going to have two different events. There's going to be a timed, competitive event for runners. Then, for everyone else who just wants to come out and support, there's a fun run/walk."

The event is open to all ages and skill levels, according to Smith. Once registered, participants will receive a Joy in Action T-shirt and then be invited to fundraise. Early-bird registration is available until May 31.

"There's a fundraising challenge to raise funds for the Joy Smith Foundation," says Smith. "The top fundraiser will win an amazing trip to Churchill for a Tundra Buggy Adventure. That includes airfare. Anyone who raises \$150 gets a Joy in Action hat and those who raise \$300 get a Joy in Action hoodie."

New Locations for Joy in Action

In previous years, Joy in Action took place at Bird's Hill. For the first time ever, the run and walk will take place in Steinbach, as well as Brandon on Aug. 8 and Selkirk on Aug. 22.

"Each location has its own advantages. Selkirk is beautiful. In Selkirk, we also have a cycle for those people who don't like running or walking. It's from Selkirk Park up to Netley Creek."

The run and walk takes place at the Riverbank Discovery Centre in Brandon, spanning five kilometres.

"Not everybody can attend those in-person events. But we do have a virtual challenge. If you still want to support and join the fundraising challenge, you can join virtually."

Helping Educate On and Fight Human Trafficking

The Joy Smith Foundation is based in Manitoba, but they continue to help educate people and fight against the injustice of human trafficking all across Canada.

"I love Joy in Action because it's community-based and human trafficking is happening in every community right across our country," says President of the Joy Smith Foundation, Janet Campbell. "It's so important to be on the ground and engaging people, in a fun way, but to be aware of the issue, and learn more about it."

The fundraising aspect of Joy in Action doesn't end with the walks or runs. It stays open for participants until Sept. 30 to allow people to get the maximum amount.

"The funds that we raise go directly toward supporting survivors and delivering the programming that we do on a daily basis," says Campbell. "Unfortunately, we have more work in a day than we have resources."