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PRE-REGISTER FOR THE JULY 4 FIRECRACKER 4K RACE

STATE COLLEGE, Pa. – Start your Fourth of July celebration with the bang of the starter's gun at the fifth annual Firecracker 4K Race on the Penn State campus. The event marks the beginning of the daylong Central Pennsylvania 4th Fest.

The family-friendly race for runners and walkers begins at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, July 4, near Beaver Stadium, home of the Nittany Lions. The course proceeds across campus toward Rec Hall and then back to end near Shields Building.

"This is a relatively flat course that makes for fast times for runners of all levels as well as walkers," said Kristen Kewitt, co-director of the race along with Denny Myers. "The Firecracker 4K is a fun way to get the whole family moving on this patriotic holiday."

This year, prizes will be awarded in a new 10-and-under category, as well as to the top three finishers in each of seven other age groups, plus overall top male and female participants. Winners will be determined by digital timing system.

Participants can go to www.4thfest.org download a PDF of the entry form to print out and mail. Entries are \$14 before June 20 or \$17 afterwards; participants under age 18 pay a discounted fee of \$8 before June 20 or \$10 for later registration. Everyone who pre-registers is guaranteed a 2006 Firecracker 4K t-shirt.

You can also register on race day beginning at 7:30 a.m. in the VIP tent area on Curtin Road, directly across from the main Bryce Jordan Center entrance. Pre-registered entrants can pick up race packets and timing devices in the same location from 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. Vehicle parking for the race is free of charge beginning at 7 a.m. in the lot adjacent to Shields Building near the corner of University Drive and Curtin Road.

The Central Pennsylvania 4th Fest continues in the afternoon and evening with children's activities, musical performances and refreshment vendors, plus the Family Playground inside the Bryce Jordan Center. The "Grand Finale" comes at dusk with 40 minutes of spectacular fireworks choreographed to music, broadcast simultaneously on 93.7 The Bus radio and televised live on WJAC.

For more information about the Firecracker 4K Race, go to www.4thfest.org, call (814) 574-5115 or email kristen474@yahoo.com. Central Pennsylvania July 4th Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization in its fifth year of operation.