



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## Arborfest Results

ArborFest was held on a mostly sunny Saturday last May 5<sup>th</sup> at Hop Porter Park in Hailey. Built on Hailey's former arbor day traditions, the day kicked off at 10 a.m. with free tree seedlings, musical performances, fun for the kids with a bouncy forest, face painting, and a visit from Smokey Bear. Local food vendors provided food and drinks.

The highlight of the festival was the inaugural ArborFest MudRun! "People had a ball," Hailey Mayor Fritz Haemmerle said. "The competitors loved it out here. I saw smiles and excitement on their faces as they tackled the obstacles." Bill Josey, co-chair of ArborFest added "Our course was unique, in that it was designed as a short track through Hop Porter Park, much like a 'criterium-style' race. This allowed the spectators to see the entire course."

Obstacles this year include:

- Kick Sand in your Face Start
- Down and dirty Mud Pit crawl
- Humpty Dumpty Wall Climb
- Spring to the Zig Zag Traverse
- Watch that Web(bing)
- Not 'Tired' Yet tire maze

The Mud Pit obstacle was the clear favorite by the crowd. Next year the Mud Run organizers plan to add more obstacles for even more down and dirty fun. Kids are invited to be part of the race by bringing their Super Soakers for one of the new obstacles next year. The 2012 categories were run by category and this year's winners include:

Women Open Winner: Sara Schroder  
Mens Open winner: Cameron Bingham  
Team Open Winner: Team ArborCare with Bill Josey, Nick Chickrell, Jeff Beacham, Kelsey Paxon, and Phillip Mathews.

While this first year we didn't have prizes, the category winner names will be engraved onto the Dirtiest Dashers Cup. In future years, the ArborFest plans on a Mud Run awards ceremony for our Down & Dirty category winners as well as our Mud-tastically wacky categories: most creative team costume and best team name. We also look forward to awarding the Dirty Business Trophy to the fastest Wood River Valley business team.



This year the entire ArborFest was free. In future years, an entry fee will be charged for the Mud Run. All proceeds from this event will benefit the Hailey Tree Committee. Their mission is to promote sound arboricultural practices and tree diversity, and to promote public education about the importance of trees. More simply put – Trees Are Good! The ArborFest Mud Run objectives are clear (unlike mud): create a fun and challenging event to draw mud-loving, extreme sports enthusiasts into our area with proceeds to benefit trees and local businesses in Hailey.

Mayor Haemmerle thanked the organizers and volunteers who helped create this new Hailey event, citing it as an example of co-chairs Bill Josey and Carol Brown “applying their creativity to establish new prosperity and fun for the community.”

For more information, contact Heather Dawson, Hailey City Administrator at 788-4221 x 18.

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