

Dear Swiss Cheese Chase 5K Participant,

I would like to start by apologizing to everyone. I am elated to see how many participants that the Ohio Swiss Festival Cheese Chase had this year - 183 in all.

I loved seeing parents running and walking with their children, and whole families that were out together. We had participants ranging in ages from 2 to 83!

People came to race against other runners, to enjoy a morning with friends, to support friends and family, and to just be a part of the Swiss Fest in a different way. We had many people from Sugarcreek, Dover, New Philadelphia, and so many surrounding areas. We even had a number of participants from 5 different states.

My goal was to be able to get 100 people to participate, and I was very excited to have gotten 76 people pre-registered. Looking at the weather on the internet this previous last week it kept showing it was going to be a cold, rainy morning making me a little disappointed that I may not reach 100 people.

I was told day of registrants really depends upon the weather - if the weather is nice we could get 30 people signed up, but if the weather is poor, not to expect a lot. To my exciting surprise we had 107 people sign up to participate on the day of the race! This is

something I could not have imagined and as I stated before seeing the family and friends supporting each other was just incredible.

Unfortunately, however, having this many people sign up on the day of the race for a race that has always been on a much smaller scale blew me away. I was not anticipating this many so I did not have enough of my color coding tags and had to change my system during registration.

Starting off having a much smaller amount of people and wanting to keep costs down I chose a way to keep times, but it was not the best way. I spoke with someone that had a much better way, and I messed up by not having the machine in my possession before hand to play around with it and make sure it was as exactly what I needed. Unfortunately the machine failed and my back up method was using a stop watch that would only record up to 100 participants.

I used that stopwatch only for the 5K participants and a group came in together so as I was hitting the button for each of the runners, I went over the 100 mark which then also deleted all the information. I was hoping to have a total of 100 participants in both races and wound up having almost 150, just in the 5k alone.

Both methods that I had to take times with had failed, and I can not apologize enough. I have many ideas for changes next year, but

have to get them approved before I can announce what changes I wish to implement.

However, I will definitely purchase my own timing machine that I will be fluent at, or be hiring a professional to time the race and get results quickly in all future races.

I am very sorry for failing to get everyone their times. I have learned so much from this experience and will take all that I have learned to make next year phenomenal!

Sincerely,

*Kristin Bond*

Kirstin Bond  
Swiss Cheese Chase 5k  
& Health Walk Organizer