

NEWS RELEASE

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**HOMEGROWN IN
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Fresh From The North Carolina Smokies

Maggie Valley • Waynesville • Canton
Clyde • Lake Junaluska

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LAKE LOGAN MULTISPORT FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES COUNTY-WIDE IMPACTS AND REQUESTS VOLUNTEERS

Waynesville, NC – Due to popular demand, the 2014 Lake Logan Multisport Festival in Canton, NC will expand its weekend of races on August 2 & 3 to include a Half-iron distance triathlon. The Lake Logan Half will be held on Saturday, August 2 and will include a 1.2-mile swim, 52-mile bike and 13.1 mile run. Because of the expansion, Glory Hound Events and the Haywood County Tourism Development Authority request assistance in communicating the county-wide impact of the festival and help securing additional volunteers.

This is latest race added to the festival, which began in 2006 at the Lake Logan Episcopal Center with the Lake Logan International Triathlon. It joins the original race, a sprint triathlon, Aquathlon (swim/run) and Aquabike (swim/bike). Race creator and organizer, Greg Duff of Glory Hound Events, expects over 1,000 athletes to race that weekend, filling hotel rooms and restaurants in Haywood County and beyond.

“The addition of the Half to the Lake Logan schedule is a natural progression of the event,” says Glory Hound Events president, Greg Duff. “The half iron distance has become very popular and our position on the race calendar makes this a perfect prep race for those racing longer distances in the fall. It will bring a different type of athlete to Lake Logan and enhance the other four races as well.”

Beginning with the first race in 2006, the Lake Logan weekend has been a magnet for multisport athletes across the country. Drawn by the cool temperatures of the lake and mountains and unusually flat courses, the majority of participants come from outside Western North Carolina with twenty-nine U.S. states represented at the 2013 event.

Because of this year’s expansion, Haywood County is estimated to welcome more than 1,300 racers and 2,000 family members and supporters with a majority of those at the Saturday races. Ninety-five percent of the participants are from areas two hours or further away so a large majority of these athletes and their supporters are expected to stay in Haywood County and enjoy the many highlights of our area

including restaurants, shopping, and attractions. “Any time a large event impacts so many areas across Haywood County, like the Lake Logan Multisport Festival, we encourage our local industry partners to familiarize themselves with the logistics of the event and to also anticipate a higher volume of visitors. There is a specific reason why they chose Haywood County as the backdrop for this festival and we want to provide them with a top-notch experience which requires teamwork from all of our partners across the county.” says Anna Smathers, Communications Manager of the Haywood TDA.

The Lake Logan Multisport Festival will impact multiple communities within Haywood County throughout the weekend so the TDA recommends familiarizing yourself with these areas and passing the information along to visitors and locals alike. Areas affected will be:

- Hwy 215 from Bethel to the Blue Ridge Parkway will be heavily impacted on Saturday, August 2 from 4:00 AM to 4:00 PM. A 3-mile portion from Lake Logan to Sunburst will be **single lane** for motorists with a pilot car escort throughout the day.
- Cyclists will be in the following areas on at these times on August 2: Canton (7:35 AM -10:15 AM), Clyde (7:45 AM - 11:00 AM), Ironduff/Crabtree Communities (8:00 AM -10:45 AM), and Hwy 276 in Bethel (7:30 AM - 11:30 AM)
- While the roads will be open to vehicular traffic we encourage everyone driving in the vicinity of the cyclists and the race to be very careful and mindful of the participants.

There are also still many volunteer opportunities available for the Lake Logan Multisport Festival. A large-scale festival such as this requires a lot of manpower and volunteers play a key role in its execution. If your organization is interested in a fundraising opportunity to recruit volunteers, please contact Greg Duff at Glory Hound Events: 828-400-5868; greg@gloryhoundevents.com.

Information on all of the events of the Lake Logan Multisport Festival can be found at www.GloryHoundEvents.com.

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Along with it's picturesque beauty, Haywood County offers year round activities and events centered around our five homegrown initiatives: Food, Heritage, Music, Art and the Outdoors. No matter what experience you choose, we guarantee it will always be Fresh From the North Carolina Smokies! For more information visit www.visitncsmokies.com or contact the Haywood County Tourism Development Authority at 800-334-9036.