

Press Release

**For Immediate Release
October 12, 2011**

**Contact
Margaret Smith, Executive Director
(715) 262 0104
mhsmith@freedomparkwi.org**

What: 2011 Freedom Run

**Where: Great River Road Learning Center in Freedom Park, Prescott, Wisconsin
200 Monroe St., Prescott, WI**

Students Run for 5th Annual Freedom Park Fundraiser

On September 28, more than 300 students and teachers from Malone Elementary School participated in the 5th annual Freedom Run. In 2010 and 2011, the Freedom Run route has been a loop on Monroe St. beginning at Freedom Park through the historic Pine Glen Cemetery and back to Freedom Park. A police escort ensured the safety of the participants. At the end of the Run, everyone enjoyed granola bars donated by Ptacek's IGA and bottled water donated by Freedom Valu Center. Businesses sponsoring the Run include First National Bank, Prescott Chiropractic, Prescott Insurance Agency, and Toninato Family Dentistry. Students also received Freedom Run buttons created by Great Rivers Printing.

The Run raised over \$2000 which will be used towards the paving of the butterfly garden path. Bricks honoring each grade, participating classrooms, as well as sponsors and donors will be permanently installed in the path. The butterfly garden is used in classroom field trips at the Learning Center, and is planted to provide the nectar and larva needs of butterflies. Begun in 2006, this fundraiser for the Great River Road Learning Center at Freedom Park has been an important part of funding selected exhibits including the eagle display in the main room of the Center, the butterfly garden and waterfall, as well as the brick pathway. Monies raised from the Run are also used towards the Learning Center's many programs for students.

Scott Halvorson, Malone Elementary Principal, commented on the children's involvement with Freedom Park. "Our children have been very involved in Freedom Park since 2006 when the Park was first being enhanced with a Learning Center. Our second and fourth grade classes have used Freedom Park's Learning Center for curricular studies. The Freedom Run is an important way for us to develop character education skills. It helps teach our students the importance of giving back to the community."

The Friends of Freedom Park wish to thank the students for their terrific effort and the parents, grandparents, teachers, principal, school staff and community businesses that support "Freedom Run" and make this such a fun and worthwhile event.

The Friends of Freedom Park is a non-profit organization whose mission is to support the operations and educational programs of the Great River Road Learning Center. The Center is one of 62 Interpretive Centers on the Great River Road and over 18,000 people have participated in its more than 450 programs and events since opening in May 2006. Since 2006, the Center has welcomed over 83,000 visitors from 50 states and 42 countries. Donations to Friends of Freedom Park is tax deductible. Questions, please call Margaret Smith, Executive Director, 715-262-0104 or visit www.freedomparkwi.org

All photos by Margaret Smith



Caption: “And they’re off!” Students, teachers and Principal Dr. Halvorson, begin the Freedom Run on the beautiful September afternoon.



Caption: Malone grades 3, 4 and 5 pick up speed as they participate in the 5th annual Freedom Run.



Caption: “Full steam ahead!” Students whiz by the shelter at Freedom Park on their way down Monroe St. to historic Pine Glen Cemetery on the banks of the Mississippi River.



Caption: The first place boy and girl finishers of the 2011 Freedom Run are Riley Anfinson and Ellie Groskoph



Caption: All participants enjoy the refreshing water donated by Freedom Valu Center and the delicious granola bars donated by Ptacek's IGA.