

What is the Ventilator 5K, and why did the ARCF decide to have this event?



The basic premise is to assemble and register a team of pushers, obtain pledges for pushing a ventilator five kilometers, optionally make the ventilator look speedier, get media lined up to cover it, then “Push that vent!”—it lacks some of the panache of “Move that bus!”, but you get the idea. Have a THEME

There are two main objectives: 1. Raise community awareness of respiratory disease by performing a public event, and 2. Raise money for the ARCF to support local grants for health promotion and disease prevention.

Who can participate in the event?

Teams can be formed by state societies, Better Breathers Clubs, hospital departments, etc. Teams will consist of at least five people, one designated as crew chief, the rest the pit crew. There is no maximum number—if 5,000 people get together and each one pushes one meter, great! There will be a minimum level of \$500 worth pledges to be obtained. Once the team has been registered, the crew chief will be responsible for setting out a 5K course.

What kind of ventilators can be used in the event?

Ventilators can be anything from an antique Puritan Bennett TV2P, Bird Mark 8, or Emerson, to the latest model in your hospital. The only requirement is that it must have wheels to allow it to be pushed—although the wheels do not need to be the original manufacturer’s wheels. They can be modified to make pushing easier. The vent cannot have any means of propulsion other than being pushed by hand. Each group has to provide its own ventilator.

Will there be prizes or awards? If so, what do you have planned?

There will be points awarded for most creative ventilator, most creative 5K course, best media coverage (adjusted for the size of the market), most money raised for the ARCF, and possibly a few more.

How will the ARCF be using the money that is raised?

The money raised will be targeted at supporting local efforts. Since we have no idea how big a response we will get, it is a little hard to say what will be done specifically, but I envision most of the funds being sent out as grants for everything from sponsoring speakers at community meetings to direct assistance to patients. There will be a short and simple, expedited grant request process.

When will the event take place?

The individual 5Ks can be held any time, but all forms will have to be submitted to the ARCF office prior to November 1. The winners will be announced during the AARC annual business meeting at the 55th Congress in San Antonio, TX.