

2019 Relay Team Profile: Who Run the World

Sometimes the timing is just right. Kelly Bathgate will take to the roads of Rothrock State forest later this month as part of a relay team, thanks to unlikely circumstances finally lining up.

This will be Bathgate's first time taking part in the the Tussey mOUntainBACK 50 Mile Relay and Ultramarathon.

"This is my first time doing the race, but not the first time for some of the other team members, my sister being one of them," said Bathgate, of State College, the team's captain. "She has done it multiple times, and has even done it with my other sister and husband before. I always felt left out, but having five kids myself, I was always either pregnant or just had a new baby. So now that my youngest is almost 4, my sister was able to get leave approved from the military for the race, so it's now or never for me!"

The team has a range of training backgrounds. Bathgate said she began training during the early summer. "And I have come to the realization I am just not a runner, no matter how much I want to be. I will be doing one leg."

The relay division of the event is designed so that recreational runners with a modest level of distance training can take part and have an enjoyable day in the forest.

"My sister and her friends who are joining [the team] are all Marines, so they are trained up for races. My other two friends just started training maybe a month or two ago."

The team name for this all-women's team is Who Run the World, as a play off the pop song, but with a real-world connection.

"My sister came up with the team name because she works with a ton of guys, and I just have to deal with my husband all the time, so many conversations of ours end with us saying how guys just need to step aside and let women rule the world and all would be well in the world."

Proceeds of this year's event will support Centre Volunteers in Medicine, a free medical and dental clinic that provides access to primary and preventive care for qualifying individuals living or working in Centre County who live in surrounding counties that do not have a free clinic or programs to meet their needs.

Photo: Kelly Bathgate is ready to race.

