



Contact: Mary Beecham  
Public Relations Manager  
Office: 678-297-2811

[mary@awesomealpharetta.com](mailto:mary@awesomealpharetta.com)

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### **More than 1,000 Youth to Participate in IronKids Alpharetta Triathlon**

On Sunday, September 12, IronKids will hold the second annual IronKids Alpharetta Triathlon, drawing youth ranging from 6 to 15 years of age. The event, taking place at Wills Park, will include five divisions: Ages 6-8, Ages 9-11, Ages 12-15, Military and Teams. All finishers will receive a commemorative medal and trophies will be awarded to the top three finishers in each age group. The top five finishers in each age group will qualify for the IronKids National Championship, taking place on Oct. 3 in St. Petersburg, Florida.

Sunday's event will see youth representing nearly 15 states, including more than 950 youth from Georgia. In addition to participants ranging in age and fitness level, there will be several inspirational competitors including:

- Winter Vinecki, 11, of Salem, Oregon, who founded "*Team Winter*" as a way to raise funds and awareness for prostate cancer, the disease that claimed her father's life in 2009.
- Abby Braswell, 7, of Alpharetta, Georgia, whose parents are both triathletes.
- Will Velleca, 8, of Atlanta, Georgia, who had open-heart surgery when he was just 1 year old.
- Kailer, Tristyn and Sydnee Brothers, 7, of Marietta, Georgia, triplets who are participating in their first triathlon together. IronKids Alpharetta takes place the day before their 8<sup>th</sup> birthday.

In addition to the race, the series offers an interactive weekend experience for the entire family. The IronKids Expo, registration and packet pick-up will take place at Wills Park on Saturday, September 11, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. There will be a course talk at 1 p.m.

followed by a triathlon clinic, led by a USAT-certified coach, at 2 p.m. Registration and packet pick-up will re-open on race morning from 5:30 a.m. to 6:30 a.m.



*A 2009 participant crosses the finish line*

“The IronKids mission is to inspire and motivate youth through sport to lead an active, positive and healthy lifestyle,” said Michelle Payette, director of IronKids. “We are excited to return to Awesome Alpharetta, which had the largest field in the 2009 IronKids National Triathlon Series with nearly 900 participants. We will have over 1,000 participants this year, making the Alpharetta race one of our largest in the U.S.”

Visitors from out of town can make a weekend of it at one of Alpharetta’s 23 upscale and modern hotels and explore all that Alpharetta has to offer in the way of family-friendly fun and entertainment. “We are excited to host the IronKids Alpharetta Triathlon again this year,” says Janet Rodgers, President and CEO of the Alpharetta CVB. “This event has a positive economic impact on our city bringing young athletes and their families to stay in our hotels, eat in our restaurants and shop in our stores. We look forward to working with the IronKids team this year and for many years to come.”

To register for IronKids Alpharetta, volunteer or learn more, visit [www.awesomealpharetta.com](http://www.awesomealpharetta.com).

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#### **Alpharetta Convention and Visitors Bureau**

The Alpharetta Convention and Visitors Bureau serves as the destination marketing arm for the City, promoting tourism to Alpharetta, Georgia, and attracting visitors to all 23 of Alpharetta’s upscale and modern hotels. Visit [awesomealpharetta.com](http://www.awesomealpharetta.com) for more information.