INDIALANTIC — After a year hiatus, the live version of the Turtle Krawl 5K will be held on Saturday, Sept. 11 with the race beginning at 7:30 a.m. at Nance Park in Indialantic according to race director Angela Lahrman.

Proceeds from the event will benefit the Sea Turtle Preservation Society.

“It is our actual biggest fundraiser of the year every year. Literally the model of STPS is to help sea turtles survive and that’s what we do,” Ms. Larman said. “The organization is allowed (with) various permits to help with stranding and transportation of injured or debilitated sea turtles to rehabilitation facilities as well as doing nesting surveys and a big part, a huge part of what STPS does is getting out the word, educating.

Last year, the race was held only virtually due to the presence of COVID-19. The virtual option will be available once again this year, Ms. Larman said.
“The virtual race starts the same day as the live race and continues for a week and during that time, people can run their race, their 5K when and where they choose and you know still be part of our event,” Ms. Lahrman said. “That gives people that may not be comfortable in large groups right now with you know some of the issues we’re dealing with, the opportunity to still be part of the group as well people from across the country and around the world. We have racers from several different countries involved.”

Ms. Lahrman indicated that she and other race organizers are “hoping for 1,700 to 2,000 people” to participate in the race.

Those who choose to participate in the live version will be in store for a picturesque morning run as well, Ms. Lahrman noted.

“As opposed to a down and back, it is a roundabout and it does take some sidetracks down various streets but it goes through some of our pretty Indialantic neighborhoods,” Ms. Larman said.

According to the race’s website, it began in 2001 and continued until 2008, before taking a year off in 2009. It resumed in 2010 and has continued ever since, with the exception of the live event being canceled last year.

Ms. Lahrman indicated that she was extremely thankful to be able to put the race on again this year.

“It means the world. STPS does amazing work. Just getting the word out means so much, Ms. Lahrman said. “....If just a couple of people learned what not to do on the beach and if we can convince just a few people to pick up a little bit of trash when they’re out at the beach and things like that, it can have such a tremendous impact and so the fact that we can have whatever we can have, still really, really benefits STPS so much. It’s most definitely worth all the work involved.”
The cost to run in the live race is $30 and to run in the virtual race is $40, with the cost going up by $5 for those who register the day of the race.

Those interested in registering or more information should visit turtlekrawl.com.