

San Antonio Prepares to Host an IML Event

We intend to apply to host an International Marching League event in San Antonio, Texas. We sent a presentation to the IML Meeting in May in China. It was received favorably by the membership. We will start holding our 3 day event in Feb 2017. In 2018 we will send a small team with our formal presentation to the IML General Meeting in Sweden. We will hold our three day event in Feb 2017, 2018, and 2019. In the spring of 2019, we will send a letter to the Secretary-General accompanied by a written proposal, a copy of the Constitution of the organization and the organization's (Randolph Roadrunners) financial statements for the last three years. At the next General Meeting our proposal will be reviewed for acceptance as a Candidate Event. If the Candidacy is granted, then a two member team will evaluate our event before the final decision is made.

Currently, there is one authorized IML Event in the United States. The U.S. FreedomWalk Festival is held in Arlington, Virginia in October. We propose to hold a second event in February; in San Antonio, Texas 1,600 miles away. The Chairperson of the US FreedomWalk Festival Club, Inc., Dolores Grenier, concurs with this proposal. All the walks will be certified for AVA credit starting in 2017. We cannot grant IML credit until IML has approved and certified our event.

We selected February for our event. Currently, there are no IML Events scheduled anywhere in the world in February. In most years, San Antonio averages a daily maximum temperature for February between 62 - 72 degrees Fahrenheit (17 to 22 degrees Celsius). The minimum temperature usually falls between 41 - 48 °F (5 to 9 °C). This is one of the driest months for San Antonio. Half the time, the city receives 0.7 to 2 inches (17 to 62 mm) of rainfall in February.

We chose the last full weekend in February. In 2017, it will be 24-26 February. In 2018 it will be 22-25 February, and in 2019 it will be 22-24 Feb. This walking event will coincide with the last few days of the annual San Antonio Stock Show and Rodeo. The rodeo is a huge event, and we think our walkers will enjoy a chance to experience it. The official event hotel will be near the famous River Walk. All walks will start from the event hotel. The walks will include the River Walk, the World Heritage Site Missions, and the Howard W. Peak Greenway Trails.

The San Antonio River Walk is a network of walkways along the banks of the San Antonio River, one story beneath the streets of downtown San Antonio, Texas, USA. Beautifully landscaped, studded with art work, and lined by bars, shops and restaurants, the River Walk is an important part of the city's urban fabric and a major tourist attraction in its own right.

The World Heritage Site Missions are a group of five frontier mission complexes situated along a stretch of the San Antonio River basin in southern Texas, as well as a ranch located 37 kilometers to the south. The group includes architectural and archaeological structures, farmlands, residencies, churches and granaries, as well as water distribution systems. The complexes were built by Franciscan missionaries in the 18th century and illustrate the Spanish Crown's efforts to colonize, evangelize and defend the northern frontier of New Spain. The San Antonio Missions are also an example of the interweaving of Spanish and Coahuiltecan cultures, illustrated by a variety of features, including the decorative elements of churches, which combine Catholic symbols with indigenous designs inspired by nature. The San Antonio Missions were recognized as a World Heritage Site on July 5, 2015.

The Howard W. Peak Greenway Trails are an ever-growing network of trails, parks, creek ways and natural areas that will one day link the entire city. The greenways currently offer approximately 52 miles of trail on over 1400 acres throughout the city.

The Randolph Roadrunners are the local club that will sponsor the event. The club is 36 years old, has over 200 members and is actively recruiting. There are 3 other Volkssporting Clubs in the greater San Antonio Area. This group of clubs host about 50 Traditional Events, 15 Year Round Events, and 5 - 6 bike events every year. There are a total of 27 Volkssporting Clubs in Texas.

We are excited about hosting this international event in our lovely city. We hope that all volkssporters and IML walkers will come to our February events and lend their knowledge and expertise in helping us create an awesome walking experience for everyone.