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2012 MANKATO MARATHON DATES RELEASED

MANKATO, Minn. — Due to tremendous growth in its second year, the Mankato Marathon is able to make some exciting changes for 2012.

Date Change

The 2012 Mankato Marathon, Relay Marathon, Half Marathon and 10K will be held on Sunday October 21, 2012. The 5K, KidsK, Sport and Health Expo, Speaker Series and Pasta Feed will take place on Saturday, October 20, 2012. After two years of assessment the date was changed due to multiple factors including a better fit into the race calendar, a chance for better weather and more. Our change to Saturday/Sunday races will allow the opportunity for a full weekend of events and growth in all events.

Location Changes

The 5k and KidsK will move from Sibley Park to the Minnesota State University, Mankato campus due to growth.

“Sibley Park just wasn’t big enough to hold all the runners and spectators we had for the Mankato Marathon 5K and KidsK in 2011,” said Race Director Mark Bongers, Final Stretch, Inc.

Moving the two Saturday races to campus instigated the move of the Sport and Health Expo, Speaker Series and Pasta Feed to campus as well. The Expo and Speaker Series will be held in Myers Field House and the Pasta Feed will also be on campus.

“Having all of Saturday’s races and activities right on campus will make for a convenient and relaxed environment for the race participants,” said Bongers

Minnesota State University has already proven to be a gracious and accommodating host.

“The University welcomes the opportunity to partner in this important community endeavor, as it offers a unique and exciting chance for us to showcase and share the campus with a multitude of participants and race supporters,” said Kevin Buisman, Director of Athletics at Minnesota

State University. “We look forward to working with others and to our role in the continued growth and success of the Mankato Marathon.”

Logistics, logistics

The KidsK will be divided into age categories of six and under and ages seven to 12 and will be opened up to 400 participants in order to accommodate the growth of the event. The 5K will be opened up to 1000 runners and the 10K race will be opened up to 1200 people in 2012.

The Mankato Marathon will release more information about the 2012 races in the coming weeks.

Registration opens December 15, 2011.

For more information on changes to the Mankato Marathon or registration visit www.mankatomarathon.com

About The 2012 Mankato Marathon:

On October 20-21, 2012 the Greater Mankato Convention & Visitors Bureau and Final Stretch will host the third annual Mankato Marathon. This accredited race is a qualifying event for the prestigious Boston Marathon, and is projected to have a third year attendance of 5,000 runners. The event will continually grow to have significant economic impact in the community and already has incredible local sponsorship, with Mayo Clinic Health System leading a long list of area businesses. There are many ways to get involved as a business, runner, volunteer or spectator. For more information on the 2012 Mankato Marathon go to www.mankatomarathon.com or call 507.385.6660.

About The Greater Mankato Convention & Visitors Bureau:

The mission of the Greater Mankato Convention & Visitors Bureau is to market the region and produce an economic impact from tourism and overnight visitors. The CVB provides a variety of services for local and visiting organizations. Any organization wishing to host a convention, conference, tournament, tradeshow, etc. can call on the CVB to help with arrangements including finding the right facilities and lodging, helping with media and public relations, providing visitor information, and assisting with event planning and support. For the leisure traveler, the CVB provides visitor information about the community's attractions and amenities.

The Convention & Visitors Bureau's mission aligns with the Greater Mankato Growth's Trade & Traffic focus. The two organizations collaborate with each other to create opportunities for businesses to access the thousands of individuals brought here as a result of conventions, tournaments and tourism. The resulting economic impact helps the hospitality industry, creates jobs and broadens the local tax base. www.visitgreatermankato.com