



NEWS RELEASE

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STUDENTS RUN LA KICKS OFF ITS 30TH SEASON AT THE LOS ANGELES DODGERS FOUNDATION 5K/10K

*- More than 3,000 at-risk middle and high school students start training for the
Skechers Performance Los Angeles Marathon -*

LOS ANGELES, Calif. – Sept. 23, 2018 – Students Run LA (SRLA) announced today that it will kick off its 30th season at the Los Angeles Dodgers Foundation 5K/10K on Sunday, September 30. The race will bring together over 3,000 at-risk middle and high school students who participate in SRLA’s youth mentoring, and serves as the starting point of this year’s marathon training program. Students train to complete the Skechers Performance Los Angeles Marathon alongside more than 500 volunteer teachers who lead the program at 185 schools and community programs across the region.

“Beginning our season at Dodgers Stadium is very special,” said Marsha Charney, Executive Director of SRLA. “For many of our students, this is their first race ever. It’s incredible to think that when they return to Dodgers Stadium six months from now, they will be lacing up for a 26.2-mile marathon.”

“LA84 is proud to support the work of SRLA in closing the Play Equity gap and giving all kids the opportunity to experience the transformational power of sport,” said Renata Simril, President and CEO of the LA84 Foundation and Board Member of the Los Angeles Dodgers Foundation. “SRLA makes a real difference in the lives of thousands of teenagers across Los Angeles. The community that SRLA creates each year brings out the best in Los Angeles and highlights the power of sport to bring about positive change.”

SRLA began when a local continuation high school teacher, Harry Shabazian, from East LA completed the first City of Los Angeles Marathon. Feeling personally transformed, Harry challenged his students, who were struggling both in school and life, to train with him for the next Los Angeles Marathon and change their lives as well. The

half dozen students who did so not only finished the marathon, but also finished high school and went on to college and jobs. One of these original students, Lulu Rojas, is now a teacher who leads the SRLA program at Downtown Value Magnet High School.

SRLA now reaches more than 3,250 middle and high school students each year across Greater Los Angeles. This past March, SRLA brought 2,746 students to the starting line of the Marathon, and over 99% successfully crossed the finish line.

“Completing a marathon is a life-changing experience,” said Ms. Charney. “As our students tell us, ‘If I can complete a marathon, I can do anything!’ But SRLA is so much more than a running program. SRLA trains students for the challenges of life,” Ms. Charney said. “Training for a marathon is difficult and you have to focus yourself. You have to push your body and you have to keep at it. To complete a marathon, as our students do, you have to complete a full-time life skills course in hard work, perseverance, and commitment.”

Since the program began in 1989, more than 66,000 students have participated in SRLA. SRLA alumni are now doctors, entrepreneurs, teachers, and even parents of current SRLA students. SRLA looks forward to continuing this tradition and legacy in its 30th season and beyond.

About Students Run LA

For 29 years, Students Run LA, a local nonprofit, has provided a free youth mentoring, marathon-training program throughout Greater Los Angeles. Each year, SRLA creates a safe, supportive community at 185+ public schools, welcoming more than 3,250 students of all backgrounds and abilities to train alongside their volunteer teachers to complete the Skechers Performance Los Angeles Marathon. Through this life-changing experience, SRLA students discover their best selves and learn how to make plans for the future. Annually, more than 95% of the students who attempt the Marathon complete the 26.2 mile course; and more than 95% of the seniors in SRLA graduate from high school with plans to attend college the following fall, 75% of whom are the first in their families to go to college. For more information, please visit <https://www.srla.org/> and connect @SRLA on [Twitter](#), @StudentsRunLA on [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#).

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