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## Students to Run their own SRLA Marathon

Mar 17, 2021



Group leader Joel Frias (left), along with (l-r) Steve Lopez, Hector Gill and Nicolas Frias — all from the Monroe High Police Academy Magnet — will be taking part in one of the SRLA marathon runs this weekend.

An estimated 2,500 students and teachers/mentors representing more than 170 schools are ready and set to go run a sanctioned marathon race in their communities, parks and beaches throughout Los Angeles county this weekend as participants in the SRLA Cross the Finish Line Challenge.

SRLA (Students Run LA), a nonprofit organization that helps underserved middle school and high school students train for and run in the annual Los Angeles Marathon, is holding its own sanctioned event this weekend instead. The 2021 LA Marathon, normally held in March, was postponed this year until November due to the coronavirus pandemic.

On Saturday and Sunday, March 20 and 21, pre-registered SRLA students and teachers will take the challenge of completing the 26.2 mile races in various locations. There will be areas for parents and supporters to meet the runners at the end of their race. All mandatory safety protocols — the wearing of masks and social distancing — will be enforced.

There are two events in the San Fernando Valley. On Saturday, approximately 45 runners from Mt. Gleason Middle School in Lake View Terrace will be running a course that starts and ends at the Lake View Terrace Recreation Area. On Sunday, another estimated 50 runners from the Chatsworth and Taft high schools, and Noble Middle School in Van Nuys, will travel along a course that begins and ends at the Woodley Park cricket fields.

The SRLA program typically has its students begin training in late August then run in a series of six races starting with a 5K in September up to a 30K in February, to produce the qualifying pace time needed to run in the LA Marathon. Because its schedule ends in March, SRLA as a program will not be participating in this year's race in November.

Those students who complete the marathons this weekend within the allotted race time will receive a virtual 2021 LA Marathon race medal.

Students 16 and older who still want to run in the LA Marathon this year, and qualify, would do so at their own expense.