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RUNNER'S WORLD HIGHLIGHTS LINCOLN MEMORIAL HALF MARATHON
More than 1,000 participants expected to "Run Where Lincoln Walked"

Springfield, Ill., March 19, 2010 – The world's leading journal for runners has taken notice of the Lincoln Memorial Half Marathon, set for Saturday, April 3. In the April issue of *Runner's World*, the magazine features the half marathon as one of the "Races and Places" to run this spring. More than 1,000 runners are expected to take part in the 13.1 mile race that winds through the streets of Springfield, giving runners an up-close view of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum (ALPLM), the Old State Capitol, Lincoln's Home, Lincoln's Tomb and other historical sites.

"Ever since we brought the half marathon into town in 2007, the race has steadily grown every year. We already have over 800 people from 25 states registered," said Tim Butler, race director. "Because only a handful of races from around the world are highlighted by *Runner's World* each month, we believe there's even more interest and excitement about this year's race."

The race starts at 7:30 a.m. in front of the ALPLM with remarks from Abraham Lincoln impersonator Michael Krebs, an appearance by Mary Todd Lincoln impersonator Debra Miller, and a musket volley from Civil War re-enactors from the 114th Volunteer Regiment.

Runners will start heading south on 6th Street, pass the Old State Capitol, then veer over to the Lincoln Home site, head back downtown and towards the State Capitol, wind their way to Washington Park, loop through the park and exit on Lincoln Avenue. After heading north for almost two miles on Lincoln Ave., runners will head back to the east, pass Camp Lincoln, and then up to Oak Ridge cemetery, where they will pass the Lincoln Tomb. The course then loops through Lincoln Park before heading south through the Enos Park neighborhood to finish in the front of Prairie Heart Institute at St. John's.

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As runners pass through the more than 100 intersections along the course, traffic control will be administered by Springfield Police, Leland Grove Police, Springfield Park District Police, Illinois State Police, and course marshals. Several downtown streets will be closed beginning at 6:00 a.m. the morning of Saturday, April 3, including 6th Street from Cook Street north to Madison Street and Capitol Street from Eighth Street to Second Street. **Motorists are asked to watch for runners along the course between 7:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.**

“This race could not happen with the incredible support of our community’s public safety agencies. In particular I want to thank Pete Campo from the City of Springfield and Sergeant Bob Crouch from the Springfield Police Department for their help over the years,” said Butler.

Participants and the public are invited to the Prairie Heart Institute Health Expo and Packet Pickup for the Lincoln Memorial on Friday, April 2 from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Prairie Heart Institute, 619 E. Mason Street in Springfield. Runners can interact with active lifestyle vendors and health-care representatives at this unique event. Pre-registered participants can also pick up their race materials. For those not pre-registered for the race, registration is available at the Prairie Heart Institute Expo on Friday or on race morning beginning at 6:00 a.m. The registration fee for the race is \$50 at the expo or on race day.

“As runners race through the city, we encourage the community to come out and cheer them on. Because so many participants are from out-of-town, this is a great opportunity to show off our historic city and share our hospitality,” added Butler.

The Springfield Road Runners Club organizes the Lincoln Memorial Half Marathon. The Prairie Heart Institute at St. John’s Hospital is the presenting sponsor of the race. Additionally, members of the 183rd National Guard Fighter Wing will be participating in the race and volunteering at one of the water stops along the course.

For more information or to register for the race, visit www.RunAbe.com. Anyone interested in volunteering for this event is encouraged to email their information to: info@runabe.srrc.net

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