

July 8, 2009

Ocala Marathon Weekend Scheduled for January 30-31, 2010

Ocala, FL - The Citrus Road Runners Club is proud to announce the dates for this year's Ocala Marathon Weekend. Saturday and Sunday, January 30th and 31st will bring runners from all over the country to compete in this 26.2 mile race, which is a qualifying event for the Boston Marathon. A half-marathon (13.1 miles), a 5k (3.1 miles) and the LifeSouth Kids Marathon will also be a part of the weekend's activities. This year, for the first time, the events will occur over two days with the Kid's Marathon and 5K race taking place on Saturday, January 30th with the full marathon and half Marathon running on Sunday, January 31st. All events start and finish at Boyd Marketplace in Ocala.

The LifeSouth Kid's Marathon program gives children from local schools the opportunity to complete a full marathon distance, one mile at a time. Students will participate in a series of one mile runs at their schools until they complete 25 miles. All the children will then run their last 1.2 miles during the Ocala Marathon Weekend. Each participant will receive their very own Kid's Marathon finisher's medal. "This is a fantastic program that helps Kid's develop a healthy lifestyle" said Chris Moling, race director and President of Citrus Road Runners Club.

The Ocala Marathon Weekend kicks off Saturday, January 30th, with the 5K and Kid's Marathon events, followed by an expanded Health & Fitness Expo at the Ocala Hilton where all Marathon and Half Marathon participants pick up their race packets. The expo will feature many running and fitness retailers, exhibits and interactive clinics. The evening finishes with a pre-race pasta dinner at the Hilton. Sunday activities commence at 7:00 a.m. with the 10th running of the Ocala Marathon, followed by the Half Marathon start at 7:30 a.m.

Spectators are encouraged to come out and cheer on the athletes as they challenge themselves to complete the 26.2 mile journey. The race course begins at Boyd Marketplace, continues south on SW 27th Ave journeying into Marion County's horse country. Marathoners pass the Country Club of Ocala before looping back on SW 7th Ave. Rd. The courses feature many aid stations, ideal places to root for race participants. Race officials encourage residents along the course to show their southern hospitality and set up tailgating parties to cheer on runners. Bleachers, music and refreshments are provided for those wishing to be a part of the Finish Line excitement.

If you are interested in volunteering, spectating or tailgating, please visit www.ocalamarathon.com for more details.