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FIRST AMERICAN ODYSSEY RELAY RACE TO BRING TEAMS IN TOUCH WITH HISTORY APRIL 24-25

Gettysburg Start to D.C. Landmarks Finish
Features "Run Where the Locals Run" Course

WASHINGTON, DC--Running and history will cross picturesque paths across three states, several Civil War battlefields and some of our nation's capital's most famous memorials as part of the **inaugural American Odyssey Relay Run Adventure, a unique team relay event to be held April 24-25, 2009.**

Spanning over 200 miles, the race will start in historic Gettysburg, where some of the most famous battles of the War Between the States were waged. Runners will encounter several covered bridges and streams in the early going before crossing the famous Mason-Dixon line into Maryland. It is in the town of Boonsboro that runners will then experience a different kind of history-making event--the first-ever *Odyssey Oasis*, a mid-race festival offering runners some much needed food & drink and the unique opportunity to interact with both their teammates and other race participants.

The course continues directly through the celebrated Antietam Battlefield and then onto the C & O Canal, the Appalachian Trail and through Harper's Ferry in West Virginia before passing Riley's Lock and entering Great Falls Park in Potomac, Md. Runners will then head toward the historic home stretch, pointing to the finish of a lifetime amidst many of the landmarks that manifest the magnificence of our nation's capital. Teams will wrap up their multi-state adventure against the beautiful backdrop of the Lincoln and Jefferson Memorials and the Kennedy Center, with the finish line located adjacent to the FDR Memorial in the shadows of the Washington Monument.

This inaugural American Odyssey Relay race is limited to 150 teams (each consisting of 12 runners). Each participant will run three separate legs of the 36-segment course, and each team will be equipped with two vans to transport teammates throughout the race. It is expected the winning team, and most of the participating groups, will finish in 24 hours or less.

"We've spent close to a year constructing a course that will be incredibly scenic, safe and simple to follow," said AOR Race Director Bob Fleshner. "Whether you've done other relays or this will be your first, you'll absolutely love running where the locals run."

Teams will not only experience a remarkable *run-down* of American history, but they will be doing their part to help others in need. **Part of the proceeds from the event will go to *The Wellness Community-DC*, a charity devoted to helping people affected by cancer.**

Prizes will be awarded to the top finishers as well as to those with the best team name, best costumes and best van decorations. The course was designed from starting point to finish line with the help of experienced area runners, thus creating the opportunity to **“run where the locals run.”**

As of today, there are 108 teams from 28 states, D.C. and Canada signed up. One team, Fleet Feet AOAT, clearly provides **some “star power” in the person of D.C. Mayor Adrian Fenty, 38.** The team is named after the D.C. store at 1941 Columbia Road, NW opened in 1984 by the Mayor’s parents, Phil & Jan Fenty, where a young Adrian worked along with the Mayor’s credo of “All Out All the Time” (AOAT).

Mayor Fenty is credited as a very strong runner, cyclist and triathlete. He set several “personal best” times in races of various distances this past year, including the Marine Corps Marathon (*unconfirmed time of 3:36*) and in the Cherry Blossom 10-Miler (*unconfirmed time of 65 minutes*). The other 11 members that make up his team are composed of strong athletes who train with the Mayor regularly, including ultra marathoners and ironman triathletes. The Mayor’s training group meets year round, so no particular training schedule has been created for the AOR.

For further info, please contact AOR Race Director Bob Fleshner (bob@americanodysseyrelay.com).