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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## Registration Open for the Fort2Fort Virtual Five Mile Challenge

MACKINAC ISLAND, MICH. — Registration is now open for the Fort2Fort Virtual Five Mile Challenge, sponsored by the Pink Pony Mackinac.

Mackinac State Historic Parks (MSHP) turns 125 this year, and the organization was excited to host what would have been the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Mackinac Island Fort2Fort Five Mile Challenge. But ... COVID-19 had other plans. However, MSHP is thrilled to host this year's race as a virtual event!

Funds raised from the race go directly to Mackinac State Historic Parks to support programs, exhibits, and park operation. The Covid-19 Pandemic has made 2020 an extremely challenging year for MSHP, and this event provides needed support to the park at a crucial time.

Participants can run or walk their race whenever or wherever it is convenient for them. For those that have already planned on coming to Mackinac Island and still would like to do so, the map of the racecourse is posted under course maps on [runmackinac.com](http://runmackinac.com). The course will be marked October 3, the "official" virtual race day, if visitors would like to run the actual course on their own.

In the week leading up to virtual race day MSHP will share information about the various sites guests will see along the course on its Facebook page. Additionally, on October 3, the opening cannon

firing and a welcome from MSHP director Phil Porter will be streamed live at 9:30 a.m. on MSHP's official Facebook page for those that want to participate on the actual virtual race day.

No matter where participants are running, MSHP and Run Mackinac would love to see photos! Share local landmarks, your regular running route, or your photos on Mackinac Island if you're running there. Use the hashtag #Fort2Fort when posting photos.

All participants will receive:

- A Fort2Fort Neck Gaiter/buff
- A unique finisher medal
- A ticket for entry into Fort Mackinac good for 2020 or 2021
- A 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary commemorative pin
- Downloadable race bib

Registrations received by September 1 will have items mailed by September 25<sup>th</sup>. Registrations received after that date will be mailed two to three weeks after the virtual race day on October 3<sup>rd</sup>.

To register for the race head to [runmackinac.com](http://runmackinac.com). Photos are available upon request. A downloadable version of this request can be found [here](#).

*Mackinac State Historic Parks, a family of living history museums and parks in northern Michigan's Straits of Mackinac, is an agency within the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. Its sites—which are accredited by the American Alliance of Museums—include Fort Mackinac, the Biddle House, The Richard and Jane Manoogian Mackinac Art Museum, Historic Downtown Mackinac, and Mackinac Island State Park on Mackinac Island, and Colonial Michilimackinac, Old Mackinac Point Lighthouse, Historic Mill Creek Discovery Park and Michilimackinac State Park in Mackinaw City. Mackinac State Historic Parks is governed by the Mackinac Island State Park Commission, established in 1895 to protect, preserve and present the parks' rich historic and natural resources for the education and recreation of future generations. Visitor information is available at (231) 436-4100 or on the web at [www.mackinacparks.com](http://www.mackinacparks.com).*

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