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Fifth Annual Fort2Fort Five Mile Challenge to be held May 14

MACKINAC ISLAND, MICH. — The fifth annual Fort2Fort Five Mile Challenge, presented by the Pink Pony Mackinac, will be held on Saturday, May 14, taking racers from Fort Mackinac up to Fort Holmes and back to Fort Mackinac, providing a challenging course full of stunning views and historic sites.

The race will feature a rolling start beginning with a rifle salute fired by historic interpreters at Fort Mackinac at 8:00 a.m. Runners will start just outside Fort Mackinac and make their way to Arch Rock, following paved roads and trails, past the cemeteries, and up to Fort Holmes, Mackinac Island's highest point. Runners will then head toward the Governor's Summer Residence and finish behind Fort Mackinac. Aid stations will be on the course.

The entry fee for this race is \$50. All participants will receive a t-shirt, medal, Fort2Fort water bottle, entry into Fort Mackinac, The Richard & Jane Manoogian Mackinac Art Museum, Biddle House, featuring the Mackinac Island Native American Museum, Benjamin Blacksmith Shop, and free photos posted online and available for download. Special awards will be available for overall and masters division male and female winners, as well as the top three finishers in each age division.

Refreshments will be available after the race for all participants at the Huron Road Pavilion, just outside Fort Mackinac.

As stated above, all racers receive free entry into Fort Mackinac, The Richard & Jane Manoogian Mackinac Art Museum, Biddle House, featuring the Mackinac Island Native American Museum, and Benjamin Blacksmith Shop throughout the day. The Tea Room, located inside Fort Mackinac, will be open for lunch from 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. providing stunning views of Mackinac Island and the Straits of Mackinac.

Further information, such as registration, age divisions and information on ferry tickets and accommodations can be found at www.runmackinac.com or by calling 810.487.0954.

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 & Jane Manoogian Mackinac Art Museum, American Fur Co. Store & Dr. Beaumont Museum, McGulpin House, 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 online at www.mackinacparks.com.

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