



CATALINA ISLAND CONSERVANCY

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Catalina Island Marathon Celebrates its 40th Anniversary *Runners will tackle the Scenic Island Course on March 11*

AVALON – The Catalina Island Marathon, California’s oldest trail marathon, will celebrate its 40th anniversary on March 11 when runners arrive on the Island to once again tackle one of country’s most scenic courses across the rugged wildlands stewarded by the Catalina Island Conservancy.

For four decades, runners have enjoyed the opportunity to traverse portions of the more than 42,000 acres of wildlands, with their sweeping valleys, rocky hillsides and oak-covered plateaus. This year’s event offers opportunities to run a complete marathon or shorter 10 kilometer and five kilometer courses. Children can also participate in a Kids Run in Avalon.

“You are leaving your everyday life to come over to an Island and do something special,” said Tony Budrovich, Conservancy president and CEO. “Most of the Island is natural and most of the Island is desert, and that is our principal job – to keep it a pristine place.”

Spectrum Sports Management Inc. sponsors the March 11 marathon and other running events every year on Catalina in coordination with the Conservancy.

“It’s a unique place, and we are happy to have the help and to be part of the Conservancy,” said Mike Bone, Spectrum Sports Management president. “We couldn’t do it without the Conservancy.”

Participants in the marathon and the Catalina Eco-Marathon on Nov. 18 will become members of the Conservancy at an E-Pal MEMBERSHIP level that entitles them to the Conservancy’s e-news and its *Conservancy Times* magazine. To register for the marathon and to learn more about the Conservancy’s partnership with the event, please visit: www.RunCatalina.com

About the Conservancy

Formed in 1972, the Catalina Island Conservancy is one of California's oldest land trusts. Its mission is to be a responsible steward of its lands through a balance of conservation, education and recreation. Through its ongoing efforts, the Conservancy protects the magnificent natural and cultural heritage of Santa Catalina Island, stewarding approximately 42,000 acres of land and more than 60 miles of rugged shoreline. It provides an airport and 50 miles of biking and nearly 150 miles of hiking opportunities

within its road and trail system. The Conservancy conducts educational outreach through two nature centers, its Wrigley Memorial & Botanic Garden and guided experiences in the Island's rugged interior. Twenty miles from the mainland, the Island is a treasure trove of historical and archaeological sites. It also contains numerous rare and endangered animals and plants. The Island is home to 60 species – and counting – that are found only on Catalina. For additional information, please visit www.catalinaconservancy.org.



Runners will tackle the Catalina Island wildlands at the 40th Annual Catalina Marathon on March 11.