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CHUCALISSA RACE TO LOWER MIDSOUTH FIELD TRIP COST

MEMPHIS, TN – For the 14th year, the C.H. Nash Museum at Chucalissa will host its Relic Run 5K to benefit youth programming on Saturday, March 3, 2012. All proceeds will go toward lowering the cost of educational visits to the Southwest Memphis site.

Despite bad weather, last year's Relic Run helped raise enough money to lower the price of field trips for over 3,500 students in the Memphis area. The museum's education department reached an additional 1,000 students in 2011 through offsite visits which allow larger groups to experience select programming from Chucalissa.

"The Relic Run is one of our biggest events of the year and is really loved in the community," said organizer and administrative associate Rachael Bogema. "We are in the process of expanding and revitalizing our education department offerings and these funds really ensure that children get to experience history away from the classroom."

Sponsored and timed by the Memphis Runners Track Club, the race begins and ends at the C.H. Nash Museum. The paved course winds through the scenic woods of Chucalissa and T.O. Fuller State Park, making it easily navigable for wheelchairs, strollers, and children.

"That's one of the reasons the Relic Run has become such a tradition. Families can see the site, walk the course, and see what a beautiful area it is without feeling like it might be too much of a hike," Bogema said.

In addition to 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place awards in all categories, all participants will receive a t-shirt in their race bags. During registration, the museum will hold a vendor fair and raffle sponsored by local and national donors including Huey's, Memphis Pizza Café, Emergen-C, Pepsi, Yolo, and Breakaway Running. Krispy Kreme, Whole Foods, Lambert's Coffee Service, and M. Palazola Produce will provide breakfast.

In November, the museum partnered with Friends of Chucalissa to raise funds for a reconstruction house to be built atop the site's large platform mound. The completion of the house, set to coincide with the University of Memphis centennial celebration later this year, will initiate the first phase of rebuilding the outdoor village that was taken down due to disrepair. While the old exhibit was a favorite of field trips past, the new village will be built with sustainable materials and complement recent additions, including an arboretum and medicinal herb garden.

The C.H. Nash Museum was founded in 1956 to protect and interpret the Chucalissa archaeological site's cultural and natural environments. Now operated by the University of Memphis, the museum serves the community by providing accessible educational, participatory, and research opportunities on Native American and other traditional cultures.

For more information on the museum and registration, visit <http://memphis.edu/chucalissa>

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