

# San Antonio RoadRunners

website: <a href="http://saroadrunners.org">http://saroadrunners.org</a>

Hello SARR members,

I want to start out this message with a safety reminder. Most of you have probably seen the news of the recent homicide on the trails. I ask that you please be vigilant with your personal safety and always be aware of your surroundings when you are out there getting your miles in. I truly believe in safety in numbers and that is one of the things I always talk about when we are out talking about SARR and the reasons to join a running club. We are hoping to host some safety classes soon and some women's self defense classes, so stay tuned for more info.

Additionally, I do want to remind you to look out for each other and treat each other with respect. I'm proud to be a part of this club and want it to be a place where everyone feels safe. Our Board takes this very seriously and we want our members to as well. I have attached a very important message to the end of this newsletter from our Director of Safety and Compliance Officer, Chris Engstrom, concerning our Code of Conduct, please ensure you take the time to read through it.

#### Just four races left in 2024:

**This coming Saturday, October 5**, we have our **SARR Sauerkraut Bend 5K & Lil Kraut's Run**. This is a fun, family-friendly 5K course along the Historic King William Neighborhood and San Antonio Riverwalk. We have included a Kid's Race as well, so get those kiddos ready for a fun sprint around King William Park. Get signed up for this one **HERE**.

**Saturday, October 19** is our 3rd Annual **Rocky Horror Trail Run**. Come all ye ghouls, goblins, ghosts, and crazy running creatures and join us on the challenging natural rocky elevated trails of Eisenhower Park a few eves before Halloween. Register <u>HERE</u>. Donations will help fund a trail renovation project at Eisenhower Park along Hillview trail.

**Thursday, November 28** is our 49th annual **SARR Turkey Trot 4-Miler, 2-Miler & Kids' Pumpkin Dash**. What better way to start your Thanksgiving Day than with a run with friends and family! Register **HERE**. Street2Feet is our charity partner for this one.

Sunday, December 15 is the SARR Santa Antonio 5K, 1-Mile Walk, and Kids Elf Run. Get Ready for the running of the Santas, it's coming this December! You can even create a team! (NEW IN 2024! We will have an all-new race category in the timed 5K. CANCER SURVIVORS). Register HERE. This run, previously put on by the BISH Foundation, will donate a portion of the race proceeds to Cancer Research.

Also, registration is open for the first five 2025 races, check them out **HERE**. Sign up early!

Our next **SARR Adopt-A-Park** clean up is on Sunday, October 13, come on out and volunteer if you can!

The main thing I can say about training is, all our teams are rocking it! I'm expecting many great things on those goal races with all the hard work I see people putting in! Keep it going! I do want

to mention, we have our Fall **Kids Run SARR training program** starting on October 13 and registration is ongoing while space is available. Get more info and register **HERE**.

Take care,

Keith Click President, SARR

# **Message from the Director of Safety and Compliance**

Hello everyone,

I hope this message finds you well and that you are enjoying your runs. As we lace up our shoes and hit the trails, it's important to remember that our running club is more than just a group of people who enjoy running—it's a community built on mutual respect and shared values. Today, I want to take a moment to talk about our Code of Conduct and the vital role it plays in maintaining a safe and welcoming environment for all our members.

### **Creating a Safe Space for Everyone**

Our running club prides itself on being inclusive and diverse. We welcome runners of all races, ages, religions, sexual orientations, and gender identities. This diversity is what makes our community vibrant and strong. But with this diversity comes the responsibility to ensure everyone feels safe and respected.

It's crucial to remember that building a safe environment isn't just about physical safety; it's also about creating an atmosphere where everyone feels valued and free from harassment or discrimination. Every member should be able to enjoy their time with us without fear of inappropriate behavior.

# **Safeguarding Our Community, Especially Women**

In today's world, we are all aware of the challenges and dangers that women face. It's our duty to ensure that our female members feel safe and supported. This means being mindful of our actions and their impact on others. Inappropriate touching, harassment, or any behavior that could be deemed sexual in nature is completely unacceptable. We must all be vigilant in recognizing and addressing such behaviors.

## **Zero Tolerance for Inappropriate Behavior**

Let me be crystal clear: any form of harassment or inappropriate behavior will not be tolerated in our club. If an incident occurs, it will be investigated thoroughly and dealt with swiftly. We have a zero-tolerance policy, and those found violating our Code of Conduct will face consequences.

Our board is fully committed to supporting victims of harassment. If you experience or witness any inappropriate behavior, please report it as soon as possible. We promise to handle all reports with the utmost seriousness and confidentiality. The board will support the victim to the fullest extent legally, ensuring they receive the assistance and protection they need.

#### **Your Role in Upholding Our Values**

Each of us plays a part in upholding the values of our running club. Respect for one another is at the core of our community. By being mindful of our behavior and looking out for each other, we can create an environment where everyone feels safe and respected.

Let's continue to foster a culture of inclusivity and respect. Let's ensure that every member feels they belong and can enjoy their time with us without fear. Together, we can make our running club a shining example of what a supportive and respectful community looks like.

Thank you for being so committed to making our club a safe and welcoming place for all. If you have any questions or need to report an incident, please don't hesitate to contact me or any board member.

Happy running, and stay safe!

Warm regards,

Chris Engstrom, MSB Director of Safety and Compliance