

Media Contact:
Summer Smith, Austin Runners Club President
president@austinrunners.org



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 10, 2012

AUSTIN RUNNERS CLUB INVITES LANCE ARMSTRONG TO RUN DECKER CHALLENGE PRESENTED BY ROGUE RUNNING

ARC expresses support for LIVESTRONG and belief in everyone's right to run, encourages Armstrong to step up in distance after winning Brown Santa 5k at last year's event



Armstrong claims victory at the 2011 Brown Santa 5k, which shares its Start/Finish and runs simultaneously with Decker

AUSTIN, TX — The Austin Runners Club (ARC) has extended a formal invitation to Lance Armstrong to run the ARC Decker Challenge Half Marathon Presented by Rogue Running. The race will be held at the Travis County Expo Center on December 9. Last year, the seven-time Tour de France titlist showed up unannounced and won the concurrent Brown Santa 5k in a time of 17:15, a 5:32 per mile pace.

Armstrong, the founder and chairman of the LIVESTRONG foundation which has raised \$500 million for the fight against cancer, was recently banned from competing in any event certified by an Olympic sport's governing body by United States Anti-Doping Agency (USADA). Armstrong referred to USADA's investigation of him as "an unconstitutional witch hunt." On September 6, the Bank of America Chicago Marathon informed Armstrong that, as a USA Track & Field-certified event, it would deny his entry.

"The Austin Runners Club supports the right of all athletes to get out and run," said ARC President Summer Smith. "As such, we would be proud to have Austin's anti-cancer crusader toe our starting line for the second straight year. We would encourage him this time, however, as the self-proclaimed 'World's Fittest 40 Year-Old,' to up his race distance from the 5k to the half marathon."

According to Decker Challenge Race Director Eli Asch, "The Austin Runners Club is a Road Runners Club of America (RRCA) organization. And although the Decker course length is certified by USA Track & Field, the event is insured and certified through the RRCA. As such, while the ARC reserves the right to deny entry to its events at its own discretion, we see no reason to do so in this case and would gladly welcome Mr. Armstrong to tackle the famous weather, winds, and hills of the Decker Challenge, Austin's grassroots half marathon."

Media Contact:
Summer Smith, Austin Runners Club President
president@austinrunners.org



About the Decker Challenge

The 34th annual Austin Runners Club Decker Challenge Presented by Rogue Running will be held Sunday, December 9 at the Travis County Expo Center at 8am. The course, originally designed to match a University of Texas Cross Country training run, travels the undulating hills of eastern Travis County. Registration for Austin's grassroots half marathon is open and can be found at <https://www.edsregistration.com/events/39>.

About the Austin Runners Club

The Austin Runners Club is a non-profit, all-volunteer organization with members of all ages and running and walking abilities. The Austin Runners Club promotes and encourages running, walking, wheelchair racing, and related activities and educates the public to their benefits. The Austin Runners Club puts on the Daisy 5k, which is being held on November 11 in 2012 (although it is traditionally a spring event), and the Decker Challenge Half Marathon, two of Austin's oldest annual running events.