



## PRESS RELEASE

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Cotton Land Marathon Event Runs Through the Weekend

**West Monroe, LA**— The Cotton Land Marathon event kicks off with a 5K race on Saturday, Nov. 12 beginning at 8 a.m. Both the marathon and half marathon will take place on Sunday, Nov. 13 at 7 a.m. All races begin and end at Kiroli Park. Proceeds from this event benefit the Civitan Smiles Park in Kiroli Park.

Formerly known as the Dirty South Marathon, the Cotton Land Marathon is the only marathon in north Louisiana. The newly designed course takes runners throughout West Monroe, including the historic downtown district. Runners will have a time limit of 7 hours to complete the marathon. The course is a US Track & Field Certified Course as well as a Boston Marathon Qualifier. “We are excited for the brand new route, and the fact that it’s a two loop course. It should be a major hit!” said Tara Knight, Race Director and owner of Dirty South Running.

Marathon and half-marathon runners can pick up their packets with information, race bibs, and t-shirt at the Hampton Inn in West Monroe on Saturday, Nov. 12, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

The Civitan Smiles Park is an all-inclusive playground to be built inside Kiroli Park that will allow children with and without special needs to play together. Families benefitting from the park will be at the races to pass out medals to finishers. The park plans to open in early 2017.

Vendors at the races will be Fit Right Active, Dirty South Running, and Bayou Dippers. Aid Stations are supplied by the Title Sponsor of the event—the Louisiana National Guard—with items such as radios, tables, coolers, Gatorade, and fruit for participants. These stations will be manned by local organizations including West Monroe High School, West Monroe/West Ouachita Chamber of Commerce, West Ouachita High School Interact, West Ouachita Cross Country, Infit, Sacred Heart Yoga, and Super Heroes 4 Autism.

To register for any of these races or to find out more information, go to [www.dirtysouthrunning.com](http://www.dirtysouthrunning.com).

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On The News Star: <http://www.thenewsstar.com/story/news/2016/11/08/west-monroe-cotton-land-marathon-event-runs-through-weekend/93501850/>