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MCMO Announces New Virtual Event to Celebrate Sergeants Major of the Marine Corps *Runners will be challenged to complete distance over 11 months in 2024*

QUANTICO, VA (October 2, 2023) – The Marine Corps Marathon Organization (MCMO) announced a new virtual event for 2024 today. The virtual Hometown Challenge: Sergeants Major of the Marine Corps (SMMC) will take runners on a 10,523.6 scaled mile journey highlighting each Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps' birthplace. Each mile run translates to three miles on the virtual map. Running Teams are challenged to complete the total mileage between January 1, 2024, to November 10, 2024, logging in the incremental distances.

Entries cost \$85 per individual or \$75 for Active Duty and Reserve military members and is open to runners ages 14 and up. Participants can choose between a runner only category or the multisport category, which includes any activity other than running. Teams will be capped at five individuals. Registration will open today at noon ET on marinemarathon.com.

The race will feature a map specifically made for the Hometown Challenge: SMMC, accessible through the participant's registration account. The map will show runners traveling a counterclockwise abstract looped route to connect all the hometowns, beginning at Tun Tavern, the birthplace of the United States Marine Corps, and ending at Marine Barracks Washington, the current SMMC's place of duty. As progress is made toward each location, participants will receive historical information about that SMMC and their hometown.

Each participant will receive a branded headgear with event coins which commemorate each SMMC for a total of 20. Additionally, the first 100 registrants will receive an exclusive coin holder perfect for displaying their accomplishments.

The Hometown Challenge: Sergeants Major of the Marine Corps is the latest installment in the MCMO's virtual series kicking off each calendar year. However, this year will be the first of such event to span most of the year, encouraging participants to submit their Marine Corps Marathon training miles toward the total or meet other running objectives.

The post of Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps was established in 1957. As the Senior Enlisted Advisor to the Commandant of the Marine Corps, it is the first such post established in any of the five branches of the United States Armed Forces. In 2023, the 20th SMMC, Sergeant Major Carlos A. Ruiz, was selected and assumed the post. This challenge will celebrate this prestigious billet by introducing, reacquainting and educating participants on the 20 men who have served the country in this role.

Open to domestic and APO AE (US foreign military) addresses only. More information can be found on marinemarathon.com.

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