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CHIHUAHUA PARADE AT MISSION SAN LUIS

Start off your Cinco de Mayo season of celebrating with a Fido-friendly event

TALLAHASSEE - On Saturday, May 1, 2010, Mission San Luis is inviting all Chihuahuas, Chihuahua wannabes, their companions, and their fans to join the fun for the second annual “paseo” around the plaza. The event is scheduled from 10 A.M. to noon and is a good opportunity to showcase your dogs and introduce them to their cultural heritage at the same time. This year’s event will include a judged paseo/parade around the central plaza of the 17th-century mission. The categories for prizes are: Best Cinco de Mayo or Native American Themed Entry (Grand Prize), Best Costume, Fiercest, Cutest, Most Original Conveyance, and People’s Choice. To compete for prizes you will need to pre-register at www.missionsanluis.org/2010RegForm.cfm, otherwise just come the day of the event and enjoy the proceedings!

Costumes are optional. All dogs must be on leashes. Unlike the Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show, this event doesn’t require a pedigree. If it looks like a Chihuahua, walks like a Chihuahua, or thinks it is a Chihuahua, it is welcome at Mission San Luis. Bring a picnic lunch and enjoy the day and the opportunity to meet others who share your enthusiasm for this small but mighty breed.

It is believed that the Chihuahua breed originated in Pre-Columbian Mexico and was the first breed of dog in the Americas. The modern Chihuahuas may be the result of breeding the *Toltec* companion animal, the *Techici*, with Spanish-introduced small dogs.

In 2009, Mission San Luis decided to add an event to our calendar that highlighted both the Mission’s Hispanic culture as well as its animal-friendly nature. Scheduled on a Saturday close to the Mexican holiday of Cinco de Mayo, the first-time event drew hundreds of dogs and people, many in costume (dogs and some people). It was a fun and social event, and the staff at San Luis decided to make it an annual event that would also highlight animal welfare. The 2010 event is sponsored by Pet Paradise.

Also on Saturday, May 1, Mission San Luis will host the regularly scheduled First Saturday Historical Happenings Lecture and Colonial Crafts for Children. May’s lecture will be presented by Dr. Sam Turner and Derek Hankerson and is entitled “*The Early Slave Trade in the New World and*

the Participation of Minorities in the Manning of Ships.” It takes place from 10:30 A.M. to 11:30 A.M. And between noon and 2 P.M., children will be able to make majolica designs on a plate.

Visitors to Mission San Luis on May 1 will also be treated to a special performance by *Mission Theatrical* of a scene from Lope de Vega’s play *El Perro del Hortelano* (*The Dog in the Manger*). This dramatic presentation will follow the official paseo and judging of animals.

All events are free with paid admission to the site. (Adults: \$5. Seniors 65+: \$3. Ages 6-17: \$2. Children under 6, Members, & Active Military: FREE).

For more information, please call 850.245.6406 or visit www.missionsanluis.org.

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