



## **Significant Cap Increase to 2010 Chevron Houston Marathon and Aramco Houston Half Marathon**

*30,000 Weekend Participants Expected for January 2010 Event*

HOUSTON (April 27, 2009) — The Houston Marathon Committee has increased the number of participants allowed into the Chevron Houston Marathon and Aramco Houston Half Marathon to 22,000 for the January 17, 2010 race.

The raised cap represents a participant increase of 4,000 over the 2009 limit and coupled with the companion EP5K and Texas Children's Hospital Kids' Fun Run races will bring 30,000 weekend participants to Houston's largest single-day sporting event.

"The demand to enter our races and the participant growth over the last eight years has been phenomenal," said race director Brant Kotch. "But our top priority remains our runners and we will continue to manage that growth appropriately to ensure Houston remains a quality experience."

New to 2010, the 22,000 field will be a protected cap with 11,000 entries reserved for each of the marathon and half marathon fields. The EP5K, presented by El Paso Corporation, will remain limited to 4,500 runners.

The increased cap will allow organizers to move away from the Registration Transfer System used to facilitate bib transfers between participants. "We are confident that the substantial participant cap increase to the marathon and half marathon fields will be well received by the thousands of runners unable to gain entry into the 2009 race," said Steven Karpas, managing director of the Chevron Houston Marathon.

Online registration opens at midnight (CST) on Friday, July 17 for the marathon, half marathon and 5K. Runners can register for any of the races online at [www.chevronhoustonmarathon.com](http://www.chevronhoustonmarathon.com). The registration fee is \$90 for the marathon and \$65 for the half marathon through August 1, when both prices increase by \$10. The entry fee for the EP5K is \$20 through October 31.

Race organizers encourage runners to register early. The marathon and half marathon have maximized their fields for 4 consecutive years with the 2009 sell out coming just 12 weeks after registration opening.

The three races, along with the Texas Children's Hospital Kids' Fun Run held on the Saturday of race weekend, attracted 26,000 runners in 2009, making the event one of the largest of its kind in the country.

The Chevron Houston Marathon, a Running USA founding member, is the nation's premier winter marathon, annually attracting participants from all 50 U.S. states and more than 20 foreign countries. The marathon offers the only closed marathon course in Texas and is ranked among the top five marathons in the nation by *Ultimate Guide to Marathons* for fastest course, organization and crowd support. More than 5,000 volunteers help organize the race, which is Houston's largest single-day sporting event.

More information is available at [www.chevronhoustonmarathon.com](http://www.chevronhoustonmarathon.com) or by calling 713-957-3453.

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