



For Immediate Release:

Fort Smith General Darby Challenge

Sunday, April 28, 2024

Downtown Fort Smith

Time: 7:00 am - 12:00 pm dead stop

Length: 13.1 Half Marathon, 5K, or 10K—Ruck, Run, or Walk

Registration: runsignup.com

w: darbyhouse.org or fortsmithmuseum.org

e: fsdarbychallenge@gmail.com

FORT SMITH, ARKANSAS--Mark your Calendars! The Fort Smith Museum of History, the new Darby House organization, and the City of Fort Smith proudly announce the inaugural *Fort Smith General Darby Challenge*, a ruck march and half marathon dedicated to honoring General William O. Darby and Fort Smith's twin cities, Cisterna, Italy and Nago-Torbole, Italy. The *FS Darby Challenge* will take place on Sunday, April 28, 2024 starting at 7:00 am at Cisterna Park in downtown Fort Smith.

The *FS Darby Challenge* is a non-sanctioned but timed half-marathon, 5K or 10K that welcomes participants to ruck, run, or walk. It is open to those on direct military orders, active and/or retired military, ROTC/JROTC and civilians alike. Special recognition will be awarded to those with the best times.

For those unable to make the *FS Darby Challenge* in person, a virtual participation option is available at registration.

The *Darby Challenge* serves as a tribute to General William O. Darby, who made the ultimate sacrifice on April 30, 1945, in Nago-Torbole, Italy. In April 2023, Nago-Torbole, Italy, and Fort Smith, AR, formed a special "twinning" partnership to honor their shared history with General William O. Darby. The *Fort Smith General Darby Challenge* will be an international twin city event, taking place on the same weekend as Nago-Torbole, Italy's *Col Darby 40 Mile Ranger Challenge*. Both events commemorate the anniversary of General Darby's death on April 30, 1945.

The *Fort Smith General Darby Challenge* will kick off at the General William O. Darby statue in Cisterna Park in Downtown Fort Smith. Participants will follow “A” Street to the Greg Smith River Trail, where the route turns north and continues along the Riverfront to Fort Smith Park. The return route retraces the trail, leading back to the General William O. Darby statue at Cisterna Park in Downtown Fort Smith. Participants will have the opportunity to pay their respects to General Darby upon completing the Darby Challenge.

A sponsor dinner will take place on Saturday evening, April 27, 2024 at the Fort Smith Museum of History. The evening of entertainment, music, and special programming will honor our distinguished guests and sponsors.

All proceeds from these events will benefit the Fort Smith Museum of History and new Darby House organization.

Register for the FS *Darby Challenge* at runsignup.com and join us in celebrating the legacy of General William O. Darby and the bond between Fort Smith and its twin cities, Cisterna, Italy, and Nago-Torbole, Italy, at the *Fort Smith General Darby Challenge* on April 28, 2024.

For more information, please contact:

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More information about the hosting organizations can be found at: darbyhouse.org or fortsmithmuseum.org