



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Race is on!

**2011 Colorado Dragon Boat Festival now accepting race team registrations;
March 1 deadline for Early Bird discount**

WHAT: 11th Annual Colorado Dragon Boat Festival, the largest celebration of pan-Asian culture featuring performances, marketplace with gifts and Taste of Asia food vendors, educational exhibits and demonstrations and of course, the exciting ancient sport of dragon boat racing! It's Denver's premier summer family event!

WHEN: Saturday and Sunday, July 30-31, 2011

WHERE: Sloan's Lake Park, 25th Ave. & Sheridan Blvd, Denver

HOW MUCH: Free admission!

CONTACT: www.cdbf.org, info@cdbf.org, 303-953-7277

It's that time of the year again: The Colorado Dragon Boat Festival is thrilled to announce that dragon boat race team registrations are now being accepted for Youth and Adult teams until May 2nd, 11:59 pm MST.

As an added bonus, teams will receive a 5% early-bird discount for paid registrations by 11:59 pm March 1. Regular team fees are \$850 for Adult teams and \$550 for Youth teams; early bird prices are \$807.50 for an Adult Team or \$522.50 for Youth. Online registration with payment via PayPal is available at: <http://cdbf.org/racing.htm> (Note: there is an added fee for PayPal transactions.)

The Dragon Boat Races have become one of the main attractions of the Colorado Dragon Boat Festival, from its humble beginnings in 2001 with 16 teams to this year, when we'll have 51 teams competing in Recreational and Competitive Divisions as well as our popular Youth Division races!

Registration includes one on-water training session provided by the experts from the Dragonboat Race Association of Colorado (DRACO), but if teams are "in it to win it," they can invest in extra on-water training sessions for just \$100 each.

How many people are needed for a team? Each team needs 24 members -- 18 to paddle (half men, half women), one to keep time on the drum, one to be the flag catcher (for Taiwan-Style flag catcher boats) and four alternates. A Dragon Boat race team is great for team building, and creating camaraderie that continues off the water and into the office and circle of friends.

ABOUT DRAGON BOAT RACING

Dragon Boat Racing is an ancient Chinese sport that's catching on internationally today. There are over 50 dragon boat festivals throughout the U.S., but only one at the elevation of 5,280.

Dragon boating is over 2,000 years old and is steeped in tradition. In ancient China, Chu Yuan, a poet, warrior, and loyal aid to the Emperor, fell victim to plots and deception, and fell out of favor with the Court.

When the old Emperor died, Chu Yuan was unjustly banished and wandered the countryside writing poems he hoped would be heard and heeded by the new Emperor.

Despondent, he finally threw himself into the Mi Lo River. His devoted followers, learning of his death, beat their paddles on the water and banged drums and gongs to frighten away the fish from Chu Yuan's body. Athletes the world over still meet to commemorate Yuan's sacrifice for honor and justice.

The sport has grown into an international competitive event, with Dragon Boat Races held around the globe from Hong Kong to Sydney, and San Francisco to London.

ABOUT THE COLORADO DRAGON BOAT FESTIVAL

Founded in 2001 to celebrate Colorado's diverse Asian Pacific American (APA) communities, the Colorado Dragon Boat Festival, a 501(c) 3 non-profit organization, has become the region's fastest growing, family-friendly summer festival. CDBF offers festival-goers the opportunity to explore APA culture through performances, educational programs, arts and crafts, shopping, dining and the exciting athletic competition of dragon boat racing.

The 11th Annual Colorado Dragon Boat Festival will be held at Denver's Sloan's Lake Park on July 30-31, 2011. It's your weekend passport to Asia and the Pacific!

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