

**Sponsor:** The events are sponsored by the Selma Pathfinders, AVA 88, TX 26, a volkssporting club promoting fitness and fun in historic and natural settings.

**Sanction:** The events are sanctioned by the American Volkssport Association (AVA), a member of the International Federation of Popular Sports (IVV). The event counts toward acquisition of IVV Achievement Awards. Participants are reminded to bring their books. Participation insert cards will be available if you need books.

**Location:** 6701 San José Drive, San Antonio, Visitors Center at Mission San José. All events begin here. See last page for map and directions.

**Event time:** You may begin the events anytime between 30 minutes after sunrise and 3 hours before sunset. The start/finish point is open from 9 A.M. until 5 P.M. year round. The start/finish point is closed on New Year's Day, Thanksgiving Day, and Christmas Day. Remember to allow time to visit the Visitors' Center and each mission.

**Eligibility:** Everyone is welcome. Children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult. Everyone must carry a start card. You may walk, jog, or run the course at your own pace.

**Registration Fee and Award:** The registration fee is payable by mail after the events are completed. Please use the envelope provided and pay by check if possible. Make checks payable to Selma Pathfinders. A coin envelope is provided in the mailing envelope if you must send cash. There are no "A" awards. The "B" awards (a series of four award patches depicting Mission San José, Mission Concepción, Mission San Juan, and Mission Espada) when put in order, form the shape of the Alamo. The fee is \$3.00 for all participants. The fee is \$6.00 for credit plus any "B" award. A limited number of other awards are available (1.5-inch pins depicting separate missions, \$2.50 each; patches, \$4.00 each). There are no refunds after you begin the events. We encourage you to share in our awards program. This program helps this organization to continue.

**Trails:**

**Walk Route 1** (12K, rated 1) is along a hike/bike trail that follows the San Antonio River and Mission Road and leads from Mission San José to Mission Concepción. The return trip follows the same route. There is no shade on most of the route. Walk 1 is not accessible to wheelchairs and strollers.

**Walk Route 2** (11K, rated 1) is along a hike/bike trail and a rural road and leads from Mission San José to Mission San Juan. Although there is some shade, most of the route is not shaded. The return trip follows the same route. Walk 2 is accessible to strollers but not to wheelchairs.

**Walk Route 3** (10K, rated 1) is mostly along a hike/bike trail and goes from Mission San Juan to the Espada Aqueduct and then to Mission Espada. Most of the route is not shaded. Walk 3 is accessible to strollers, but not to wheelchairs.

**Bike Route** (27K) begins at Mission San José and follows the hike/bike trail first to Mission Concepción, then to Mission San Juan, and finally to Mission Espada. You can visit the historic Espada Dam and the Espada Aqueduct along the way.

**Note:** During weekdays there has been construction on the trails. Expect detours and/or foreshortening of some walks. Take a pedometer or time your walk. Restrooms and water are available at the start/finish point and at all checkpoints. We suggest that you also carry water, especially during the summer. Pets are welcome on the trails, but they must be on a leash at all times and must remain on the hike-bike trail. Please do not take pets into the Mission grounds or into Mission County Park.

**Disclaimer:** The National Parks Service, the City of San Antonio, and the Selma Pathfinders cannot be held responsible for any lost or stolen items, accidents, or injuries. Reasonable effort has been made to make these events safe and enjoyable. Some areas of the routes are somewhat isolated.

**For information contact:** Frank Chappell or Phyllis Eagan, P.O. Box 700946, San Antonio, 78270-0946, 210-545-2792, 210-496-1402. If you would like to have companionship while participating in the events, the following members can be contacted and may be able to accompany you: Roy and Mary Boller 210-650-0091, Frank Chappell, 210-545-2792, Phyllis Eagan 210-496-1402, Rose or Margaret Foerster 210-349-0338, Pat Gunter 210-479-0805.

**About the Spanish Missions:**

The chain of missions established along the San Antonio River date back to the early 1700s. They were originally established by Spain in an attempt to propagate the Catholic faith and to introduce the Indians to European culture. Plenty of water and timber attracted the Spanish explorers and the Franciscan friars, who needed a waystation between the missions in East Texas and Mexico. These missions, along with their presidio and settlement, were the seeds for one of the most successful Spanish communities in Texas.

The missions flourished between 1745 and 1775, enjoying strong economies and peaceful coexistence between mission Indians and Spanish settlers. Later in the century, increased hostility from Apaches and Comanches, coupled with inadequate military support, weakened the missions. Disease reduced the surrounding Indian population, accelerating the missions' decline. In 1824, all Texas missions were secularized, their lands redistributed among the mission Indians and the churches transferred to the secular clergy. The San Antonio missions today represent a virtually unbroken connection with the past. Bearing the distinctive stamp of generations of Indian and Spanish craftsmen, they live still as active parishes.

The four missions—Concepción, San José, San Juan, and Espada are included in the four events, along with Espada Dam, the Aqueduct, and the Acequia irrigation system. The fifth mission, the Alamo, is included in the San Antonio Riverwalk YRE which begins at the Sheraton Hotel on the San Antonio River at 110 Lexington in downtown San Antonio.