



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CHIHUAHUA PARADE AND COSTUME CONTEST AT MISSION SAN LUIS

~ Celebrate Cinco de Mayo and Viva Florida 500 with a Fido-Friendly Event ~

TALLAHASSEE - On Saturday, May 4, 2013, Mission San Luis is inviting all Chihuahuas, Chihuahua wannabes, their companions, and their fans to join the fun for the fifth annual "paseo" or parade around the central plaza of the 17th-century mission. 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 costume contest with prize packages for each category provided by *Pet Paradise*, *Bark Busters Red Hills*, and *El Mercado: The Shop at San Luis*. The categories 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/2013RegForm by Friday, May 3, at 4 pm. Registrations will also be accepted on site the day of the event between 8:30 and 9:30 A.M.

All breeds are welcome and costumes are optional. Dogs must be on leashes. Bake sale items will be available courtesy of the Mission San Luis volunteers. The event is included with regular admission to the site. (Adults: \$5, Seniors 65+: \$3, Ages 6-17: \$2. Children under 6, Members, and Active Duty Military: FREE).

Bring your donations of dog and cat food for local animal shelters. Pack 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.

Mission San Luis, *Florida's Apalachee-Spanish Living History Museum*, was the western capital of Spanish Florida from 1656 to 1704. Today the Mission brings the early 1700s to life with living history interpreters in period dress, reconstructed period buildings, exhibits, and archaeological research. The site is managed by the Florida Department of State, Division of Historical Resources, Bureau of Archaeological Research, and support is provided by the Friends of Mission San Luis, Inc. *VIVA Florida 500* is a statewide initiative that highlights the 500 years of historic people, places and events in present-day Florida since the arrival of Juan Ponce de León in 1513.

Mission San Luis is located at 2100 West Tennessee Street in Tallahassee, Florida, and is open Tuesday through Sunday from 10 A.M. to 4 P.M. For more information please call 850.245.6406 or visit www.missionsanluis.org.

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Friends of Mission San Luis, Inc.

CITIZEN SUPPORT ORGANIZATION OF MISSION SAN LUIS

Florida's Apalachee-Spanish Living History Museum

2100 West Tennessee Street | Tallahassee, Florida 32304 | 850.245.6406 | missionsanluis.org