



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Chihuahua Parade and Costume Contest at Mission San Luis

Celebrate Cinco de Mayo with a Fido-friendly event

TALLAHASSEE - On Saturday, May 5, 2012, Mission San Luis is inviting all Chihuahuas, Chihuahua wannabes, their companions, and their fans to join the fun for the fourth 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 prizes, including free gift certificates from Pet Paradise. 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/2012RegForm.cfm, or register on site the day of the event beginning at 9 A.M.

All breeds are welcome and costumes are optional. Dogs must be on leashes. Food will be available for purchase from Los Amigos Restaurant, Knotty Hawg BBQ, and Tropical Smoothie. 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. 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* is located at 2100 West Tennessee Street in Tallahassee. It 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. The site 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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