



Division of Student Affairs
Department of Recreational Sports

SW Recreation Center
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Dear friends and family of the Florida Running Club,

We are excited and proud to have just been named the 44th official sport club of the University of Florida Department of Recreational Sports. It was a privilege for us to have been accepted and to be recognized as Florida's cross country and track & field club team. Belonging to this department makes us more than simply a running club and promises greater opportunities for all non-varsity runners here at UF. We would like to inform you about our new club and how you can support our team so we can meet fundraising goals and continue to grow at the University of Florida.

We have a promising vision for our future. As this is our first year, we specifically want to build this club so that the University of Florida has an outlet for incoming freshmen and all other students who want to seriously compete and improve in college level cross country and track competitions. Since the UF varsity track team is primarily comprised of scholarship athletes with no JV or B team, even well-qualified athletes do not get a chance to compete at the level they wish while attending UF. The Florida Running Club (FRC) was created to fill this void by allowing runners to unite within a team environment and still compete.

This school year, we participated in the competitive Fall 2012 cross country season with a full schedule of college-level meets, including the University of Tampa Early Bird Classic, UF Mountain Dew Invitational, and the FSU Invitational. Our runners excelled at all meets, outperforming varsity-level college teams in both men's and women's races. We wrapped up the season by traveling north to the NIRCA Southeast Regionals in Spartanburg, South Carolina where Mark Benjamin placed first in the men's 8K to lead six other teammates, and Betsy Suda finished 2nd place among the girls in the women's 5K. Both the men's and women's teams advanced to the NIRCA Cross Country Nationals held in Hershey, Pennsylvania. All of our runners put in great efforts on the challenging hilly Pennsylvania terrain, and Betsy Suda placed 9th overall in the women's 6K. After cross season and upon returning from winter break, we got back into full swing with track season. Currently our athletes are training daily to represent UF as the Florida Running Club and have already traveled to two track meets at Embry-Riddle and the University of North Florida.

Our purpose does not just revolve around running; we have already given back to the community through more than 125 hours of volunteering since becoming a club in November at local community events and projects in Gainesville. We have also supported our fellow UF RecSports clubs by attending their home events and cheering them on in true Gator fashion. We hope to become a distinguished club in this respect and achieve the highest status and beyond as a part of UF RecSports.

As a RecSports club we are required to meet fundraising goals. To meet these goals we have already worked hard to raise money, earning \$600 from a UF football game day recycling program called Green Team. We are still working toward reaching our club's year end goal of \$1600. We therefore would benefit greatly from any donation our friends and family could generously give. Donated money will be used this track season to help offset registration fees and traveling costs for our upcoming meets at FSU and the University of Tampa. Any donations that are not used this year will carry over to next year and will be used to purchase jerseys and to pay annual dues to our national governing body, NIRCA (National Intercollegiate Running Club Association). Cross country season especially involves extensive traveling costs due to gas for driving and hotel stays. Previously, all traveling costs and race registration fees have been paid for out of pocket, so

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your donation will make a dramatic impact for our team! The donations go safely into the club's RecSports account where it remains until the club Treasurer or President applies for activity reimbursement.

Florida Running Club thanks you greatly for your support. We are very excited about our upcoming training and competition schedule and we are working hard to build and expand the club for Florida students. We look forward to sharing our future achievements with you.

To make a donation to the University of Florida Running Club, please make all checks out to the following and postmark by **April 12th, 2013**:

University of Florida Foundation
"Running Club" should be put in the memo

** You can receive a tax write-off on all donations made out to the UF Foundation.

If you have further questions please email our club liaison Marty Dempsey at
MartyD@recsports.ufl.edu

Mail to:

Florida Running Club
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Sincerely,
Florida Running Club
frc.clubrunning.org