



Marco Polo World Foundation
Host of 2009 Annual DFW Dragon Boat, Kite and Lantern Festival

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Irving Fire Department's 'Hope We Float' Team Wins Grand Championship at Annual DFW Dragon Boat, Kite, and Lantern Festival

IRVING, TX- (May 18, 2009) – “Hope We Float”, the Irving Fire Department’s dragon boat team won the coveted Grand Champion title for the second year in a row at the 2009 Annual DFW Dragon Boat, Kite, and Lantern Festival held on May 17th, 2009.

“The Irving Fire Department set a new record for fastest time at the festival.” said Lily Mak, Dragon Boat Race Chair. “This year they set a time of 1:07:25 in their third round.” “Thirty teams competed in this year’s dragon boat races.”

2009 Race Results

Championship Finals:

- 1st Place: Hope We Float, Irving Fire Department - Festival Grand Champions (1:08:21)
- 2nd Place: Taiwan Formosa of Denton (1:12:31)
- 3rd Place: Rock-N-Roll, DFW Technology, Inc. (1:12:93)
- 4th Place: Wok n' Row - Mr. Wok Asian Bistro (1:18:66)

Division Challenge Cups:

Youth Division:

- 1st Place: Boy Scouts of Circle 10, Boy Scouts of America

Community Blue Bonnet Division:

- 1st Place: OCA
- 2nd Place: DAABA Legal Lions
- 3rd Place: ACP



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Community Wildflower Division:

- 1st Place: Power Dragon
- 2nd Place: FCC1 (Families with Children from China)
- 3rd Place: The Drunken Centipede

Cancer Awareness Division:

- 1st Place: KOI 1 for Asian Breast Health Outreach in memory of Dina Casana
- 2nd Place: Mudzilla
- 3rd Place: Merit Chinese School for Asian Breast Health Outreach Project

Corporate Division:

- 1st Place: The Planet
- 2nd Place: Capital One Bank
- 3rd Place: Huawei Technologies

Women's Premier Division:

- 1st Place: Art Attack!, Irving Arts Center

Men's Premier Division:

- 1st Place: Hope We Float, Irving Fire Department
- 2nd Place: Rock-N-Roll, DFW Technology, Inc.
- 3rd Place: Taiwan Formosa of Denton

Open Division:

- 1st Place: Wok n' Row - Mr. Wok Asian Bistro



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2nd Place: Henry S. Miller

3rd Place: MedAssets

In addition to the dragon boat races which raced four boats at a time throughout the day on Lake Carolyn, a multitude of kites graced the skies above the festival grounds as festival visitors enjoyed the sunny breezy day and took part in the many cultural activities. Colorful lanterns gently swung in the breeze. "It was a spectacular day and we had huge crowds come out", said Meilan Wang, President of Marco Polo World Foundation, organizer of the festival. "Many sat under the big tent and enjoyed the talented multi-cultural performers on the main stage as they performed throughout the day. Performers included cultural dances from China, Japan, Korea, Indonesia, Thailand, Philippines, India and Hawaii.

The 2009 DFW Dragon Boat, Kite, and Lantern Festival celebrates Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month and is hosted by the Marco Polo World Foundation, a non-profit organization dedicated to expanding awareness and education of Asian cultures and to promoting the sport of dragon boat racing in North Texas. All festival organizers are volunteers from the community. Strong support from corporations, community organizations, and the City of Irving has made this festival possible.

For more information on the festival, visit the website at www.dfwdragonboatfestival.com.

About Marco Polo World Foundation (MPWF)

Marco Polo World Foundation is a non-profit, volunteer based organization. Its mission is to showcase Asian culture, enhance intercultural understanding and education, celebrate Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month, and promote the sport of dragon boating in the DFW region. Marco Polo World Foundation initiated the first annual DFW Dragon Boat, Kite, and Lantern Festival in 2007. The Foundation works with private and public sector partners and community organizations to encourage regional and international participation.

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