

SWOSU Nursing Students Help with Memorial Marathon for 11 Straight Years

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Sixteen Southwestern Oklahoma State University nursing students from Weatherford recently volunteered their services in the medical tent at the 16th annual Oklahoma City Memorial Marathon.

With 25,731 participants from all 50 states and 13 countries, it was the largest Memorial Marathon in history.

SWOSU students have been volunteering at this event for the past 11 years, according to instructor Tamra Weimer. Under the direction of medical team director Dr. Tom Consigliore, runners were treated throughout the course of the day. Dr. Consigliore prepares the volunteers to handle a variety of medical situations each year.

In addition to the main medical tent at the finish line, aid stations were set up along the course. A medical aid station was provided at the Kids Marathon and was staffed entirely by SWOSU junior nursing students.

This was an unusual year as the tent was completely destroyed by the high winds on the day before the race, so another tent had to be constructed on short notice. Weimer said the weather was miserable, and the volunteers were fewer so all who did show up were kept very busy.

Voted one of the 12 'must-run' marathons in the world by Runner's World magazine, the 26.2 miles are packed with cheering supporters. The course begins at the Oklahoma City National Memorial & Museum, winds through the Capitol, Oklahoma City's historic neighborhoods and ends in Automobile Alley. Along the way, runners pass 168 banners, each bearing the name of one of those who were killed in the Oklahoma City bombing.

"Runner safety is always prime importance and without all the volunteers from physicians to nursing students this would not happen," Weimer said. "This is a wonderful way for all involved to give back to the community as we remember April 19, 1995 and the lives that were changed forever."

SWOSU nursing students who participated:

- Taylor Bromlow
- Baylee Chisum
- Tasha Clewell
- Courtney Ernst
- Kylee Gregston
- Matalyn Haney
- Lexy Hume
- Tara Jones
- Kenzie Lind
- DaLey McGuire
- Allison Mills

- Chelsea Rackley
- Ashleigh Seale
- Corrine Stanley
- Kaylin Trompeter
- Rachel Watkin