



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

11th Colorado Dragon Boat Festival “Gambare” Japan: Hope for relief

CDBF 2011 introduces new performance stages, 51 racing teams, authentic Asian cuisine and a community fundraiser for Japan

WHAT: 11th Annual Colorado Dragon Boat Festival, the largest celebration of pan-Asian culture

WHEN: Saturday and Sunday, July 30-31, 2011

WHERE: Sloan's Lake Park, 25th Ave. & Sheridan Blvd, Denver

HOW MUCH: Free admission!

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The Colorado Dragon Boat Festival celebrates its 11th year on July 30 and 31, 2011 at Sloan's Lake Park in Denver. CDBF is the largest pan-Asian festival between the Midwest and West Coast and is the premiere summertime family event in the region. There will be traditional and cultural performances, educational exhibits and demonstrations with fun shopping and dining at the Asian Marketplace and Taste of Asia Food Court. And of course, there will be two days of action-packed dragon boat racing!

This year's theme will be “Gambare” Japan which means “persevere” in Japanese. We will highlight the country throughout the festival with symbolic colors, origami cranes, and a traditional Japanese ceremony. “Even before the tragic earthquake and tsunami, we had planned on showcasing Japan in our Gateway to Asia educational area,” says festival Executive Director Erin Yoshimura. “Now it's especially poignant, because the country will need support from around the world for many months. The CDBF family reaches out to everyone in the local Japanese and Japanese American communities who have families or friends who were affected.” A special fundraiser will also be held for the victims of the tsunami.

What's new in 2011?

Dragon Boat Races

This year, 51 teams (including the community pickup team), will compete on Sloan's Lake, with competitive, recreational and youth divisions. In 2010, there were 48 teams. For the first time, more than 80 percent of the 2011 race team slots have already been filled. Registration ends on May 1st.

Gateway to Asia

Gateway to Asia features more intimate performances than the Main Stage. Audience members can get up close and personal with performers. Gateway to Asia also showcases interactive educational exhibits, which focus on specific Asian Pacific communities. Representatives in traditional clothing introduce you to

their culture and history, and explain the arts and artifacts on display. Last year, a new area called “Find Zen” was launched as part of Gateway to Asia to showcase some of the many ways that traditional Asian cultures promote healthy lifestyles and relive stress. This year a stage has been added to Gateway to Asia that will feature both “Find Zen” techniques and a focus on Martial Arts demonstrations.

Dragonland

Since the very first Colorado Dragon Boat Festival, we’ve included an area for children so they can be introduced to Asian cultures with fun activities, guided by volunteers from such organizations as Girl Scouts and the Denver Art Museum. For 2011, CDBF is proud to announce a new Dragonland stage that will feature children’s performers and storytellers to enhance the “edutainment” available for young people at the festival.

ABOUT THE COLORADO DRAGON BOAT FESTIVAL

Established in 2001, the Colorado Dragon Boat Festival has drawn over 100,000 visitors annually to celebrate Colorado's diverse Asian Pacific American (APA) communities. The Colorado Dragon Boat Festival, a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, has become the region's fastest growing, family-friendly summer festival. CDBF offers festival-goers the opportunity to explore APA culture through performances, educational programs, arts and crafts, shopping, dining and the exciting athletic competition of dragon boat racing.

The 11th Annual Colorado Dragon Boat Festival will be held at Denver's Sloan's Lake Park on July 30-31. 2011.

It's your weekend passport to Asia and the Pacific!

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