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Pam LeBlanc American-Statesman Staff



# Go for a run and find a date for Cupid's Chase

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12:00 a.m. Wednesday, Feb. 3, 2016 | Filed in: Recreation

Runners ooze sex appeal. Who wouldn't want to meet one?

That's the premise behind the Cupid's Chase 5K, where runners advertise their dating availability and hot foot it after other exercise junkies. The race, which has been staged around the country for nearly a decade, unfolds in Austin for the first time the day before Valentine's Day.

Participants tug on "Available" or "Unavailable" T-shirts for the event in hopes of sparking an on-course love connection.

Registration is \$30 through Feb. 12 or \$40 on race day. Register at [comop.org/cupidschase](http://comop.org/cupidschase).

Rather stay at home, tucked in bed? A virtual option, "Cuddle Up for the Cause," is available for those who can't attend in person.



Runners participate in the Cupid's Undie Run on Nueces Street last year. The run benefits neurofibromatosis research

The race starts at 10 a.m. Feb. 13 at Camp Mabry, 2210 W. 35th St. Packet pickup begins at 8 a.m.

Proceeds benefit Community Options Inc., a national nonprofit organization that offers housing and employment programs for people with disabilities.

### Show your drawers for this race

Runners, prepare to strip to your skivvies.

You've heard about the Cupid's Chase 5K on Feb. 13. When you're done with that, you can drop trow at the annual Cupid's Undie Run on Feb. 20 at the Rattle Inn, 610 Nueces St.

The event, which features runners in their underpants (well, semi-nudity isn't required, but it's encouraged), raises awareness and funds research of neurofibromatosis through the Children's Tumor Foundation.

Participants trot about a mile through downtown.

Doors open at noon, with an awards ceremony at 1 p.m. and the actual run at 2 p.m. Open bar (for those who raise \$250 or more) closes at 3:30 p.m.

Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo

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Participants can run solo or as part of a team. Registration is \$45 now or \$55 after Feb. 6. Go to [cupidsundierun.com/city/austin/](http://cupidsundierun.com/city/austin/) to sign up.

Similar runs will take place in 36 cities around the country. (We've got it easy in balmy Austin. Watch video of last year's Cupid's Undie Run in Cleveland on [austin360.com/fitcity](http://austin360.com/fitcity).) To date, the non-profit event has raised nearly \$8 million for charity.

This year is special, too. Drew Leathers, the younger brother of Chad Leathers, co-founder of Cupid's Undie Run and the inspiration for the run, recently died of neurofibromatosis. The genetic disorder causes tumors that grow on nerves throughout the body, leading to blindness, deafness, learning disabilities, cancers and chronic pain.

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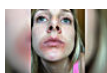
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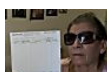
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