



NEWS from the Shelby County Mayor's Office

Lee Harris, Mayor

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NOVEMBER 19, 2019

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IRONMAN SELECTS MEMPHIS FOR NEWEST IRONMAN 70.3 EVENT

Memphis, TN - IRONMAN has announced Shelby Farms Park will be the venue for the multi-year St. Jude IRONMAN 70.3 Memphis. The inaugural event will take place October 3, 2020. Shelby County is looking forward to supporting this event and Shelby Farms Park.

“We are looking forward to showing off our hospitality, culture, and history to IRONMAN athletes and their cheering squads. There is no better venue for the triathletes than one of Shelby County’s greatest assets, Shelby Farms Park,” says Shelby County Mayor Lee Harris. “We welcome IRONMAN athletes and their families to experience the rumblings of the mighty Mississippi, the musical nightlife of Beale Street, and the southern tang and sweetness of Memphis barbeque.”

“The world will be looking at Memphis and Shelby County in 2020 with the St. Jude IRONMAN 70.3 Memphis,” says Mark Billingsley, Chairman, Shelby County Board of Commissioners. “After their 1.2 mile swim, 56 mile bike, and half marathon, these athletes and their families will want to experience everything we have to offer including Graceland, the National Civil Rights Museum, and our host location Shelby Farms Park. Our community has a great number of our own triathletes that will also compete. We are moving in the right direction as a community and it’s being noticed. I could not be more excited.”



“I am very excited about the race and the three year commitment that Ironman has made in Shelby County,” says Shelby County Commissioner David Bradford. “The IRONMAN name paired with St. Jude will draw thousands of participants from across the country. And what better place to host the event than the best urban park in the country, Shelby Farms Park. Shelby County has a very strong triathlete community with a number of large training teams like Memphis Thunder Racing and Terrapin Racing. I will be there on race day cheering on the athletes.”

At 4,500 acres, Shelby Farms Park is one of the largest urban parks in the country and one of Shelby County’s most prized assets. The Park features more than 40 miles of trails, both paved and unpaved, that are popular for walking, biking, running and hiking. Athletes will swim 1.2 miles in Hyde Lake, start and finish the 56 mile bike in the Park, and run the entire 13.1 miles through Shelby Farm Parks Trails.

“Thank you to the hard work of Memphis Tourism that helped land the first IRONMAN event in Memphis. We are also grateful to St. Jude for sponsoring the IRONMAN 70.3 competition,” says Mayor Harris. “It wasn’t too long ago that Memphis was considered one of the unhealthiest communities in the region. I am proud that, through this event, we are poised to show off our commitment to health, our active fitness community, and one of our greatest public greenspaces, Shelby Farms Park.”

To celebrate the selection of Shelby Farms Park for the newest IRONMAN 70.3, the display photo on shelbycountyttn.gov has been changed to the beautiful Hyde Lake at Shelby Farms Park.

Registration for the St. Jude IRONMAN Memphis opens Tuesday, December 10, 2019 at www.ironman.com/im703-memphis.

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