

Scavenge through the ages at 'Dash Through the Past'

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Get your running shoes on, and find a shovel, brush and pick because it's time for the annual "Dash Through the Past" scavenger hunt race in downtown Pensacola.

The race, which is being held by the Florida Public Archaeology Network on March 9 from 9 a.m. until noon, will have teams or individuals using their history knowledge to solve puzzles during the race. By doing these, participants get to learn about the history of Pensacola and archaeology.

One part of the race will test participants' physical strength by having them do the atlatl challenge, said Michael Thomin, co-organizer of the event.

The atlatl challenge requires participants to throw a spear at a target and get it to land correctly to move on in the race.

Participants can register for the race beginning at 9 a.m. and receive supplies needed for the race at that time. The race begins at 10 a.m.

"Registration to compete is actually free," said Thomin "The \$10 donation entitles participants to an FPAN water bottle, but is not a requirement to enter

the race."

The team or individual with the fastest time will win prizes at the end of the race.

There are several sites to see along the way, and Thomin said one of his favorite sites is the museum at the start of the race.

"The reason why I like this museum more than any others is just because it really discusses archaeology both on land and under water," Thomin said.

After the race, participants can expand their knowledge of history and what archaeologists do during digs.

"We invite anyone from the general public to come in and do what we call rough sorting artifacts, and these are artifacts that have been taken from excavations that the University of West Florida has done, and so it's kind of a continuation of that to get more people interested in working with our artifacts and archeology in general," said Nicole Bucchino another event organizer.

The lab is located at 207 E. Main St. and will be open after the race until 2 p.m.

The lab is normally open on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. for the public to come and help with