

**PERFORMERS SUPPORT L.A. MARATHON
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The SGI-USA Southern California Zone youth performance groups and American Rainbow Chorus performed for the 16th annual City of Los Angeles Marathon on March 4. The Los Angeles Marathon was host to more than 23,000 participants from around the world, including runners, walkers, wheelchair athletes and, for the seventh year in a row, more than 10,000 cyclists in the Acura Bike Tour.

The marathon officially started at 6:00 a.m. with the bike tour and SGI-USA members already in full force, volunteering at the eighth mile. The 20th mile is where the dynamic beat of the SGI-USA Taiko Drummers kicked off a glorious, rain-free day for the singers and dancers.

The threat of rain loomed over the stage area all morning, but the powerful movement of the SGI-USA dance groups International Souls, Rhythm Nation and Dance Crew held it at bay. Their hour-and-a-half show was completed three times in support of all the runners who had 6.2 miles to go.

Johnny Pastor of Rhythm Nation stated, "The support from the Behind-the-Scenes Group and our zone leaders made the day incredible for us." Trayonna Bradley, 15, said that she is "having fun with all her Buddhist activities." Her sister, Naomi, 13, achieved her goal of chanting every day toward the marathon.

This was the final marathon performance for some of the young women who will be graduating to the women's division this year. Some had been performing in as many as 10 of these shows, with one member performing for the 12th year in a row.

SGI-USA received a congratulatory letter from the organizing committee, which reads in part: "The Los Angeles Marathon would like to thank you for your continued support. We look forward to working with you on the City of Los Angeles Marathon next year!"