



Golden Gopher Battalion



STORYBOARD

34th Annual Bataan Memorial Death March

White Sands Missile Range, NM
19 March 2023

White Sands Missile Range, NM - Congratulations to the University of Minnesota - Golden Gopher Battalion & Gen. Vessey AUSA Teams for their remarkable performance at the 34th Annual Bataan Memorial March/Marathon at White Sands Missile Range, New Mexico. A total of 5,471 participants raced against the backdrop of the San Andreas Mountains, the UMN Army ROTC Team was the first to cross the finish line out of 272 total teams. They placed 1st out of 59 Academy & ROTC teams. Cadets Makenna Larson, Rory King, Micah Poor, Matthew McCormick, and Cameron Lehmann made up the ROTC Elite Team. In addition, a stellar group of Cadets also took 1st place in the Civilian Co-ed Division. Cadets Sergio Almeida, Shane MacDonald, Carolyn Kearns, Adam Larson, and Sarah Morgan (Civilian) - comprised the AUSA Vessey Chapter Co-ed team. The Gopher Battalion ROTC Heavy Team placed 15th overall out of over 150 teams; Cadets Aislin Rogers, Nicolas Karp, Adam Groh, Shane Lentsch, and Leo Puntillo made up the UMN ROTC Heavy Team. Also completing this grueling marathon was Cadet Bailey Snidarich, who placed 2nd in the ROTC Individual Female category. Cadets Raina Hoge and Emma Voigt completed the Honorary 14.1 miles version of the event.

Teams and individuals participate in the Bataan Memorial Death March for personal challenges, the spirit of competition, or to foster esprit de corps in their unit. Some march in honor of a family member or a particular veteran who was in the Bataan Death March during WWII or who was taken as a prisoner of war by the Japanese in the Philippines. Many of these veterans were from New Mexico and the Minnesota National Guard Brainerd's based 34th Tank Company.



Cadets McCormick, King, Larson, Lehmann & Poor
U of MN Army ROTC Light Team
1st Place - 4:21:56



Cadets Larson, Almeida, Macdonald, Kearns & Ms. Morgan
Vessey AUSA Coed Team
1st Place - 4:52:19



Cadets Lentsch, Groh, Puntillo, Rogers & Karp
U of MN Army ROTC Heavy Team
1st Place - 8:16:32



Cadets Hoge & Voigt proudly completed the 14.1 Miles Honorary Division event.



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Sights from 2023 Bataan Memorial Death March

