



Asociación Nicaragüense de Louisiana

A Non-Profit Association

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**NICARAGUAN ASSOCIATION CELEBRATES “EL TOPE DE SANTO DOMINGO” FOR 14th
CONSECUTIVE YEAR**

Kenner, LA - The 14th annual El Tope de Santo Domingo will be held Saturday from 3 p.m. to 11 p.m. at Heritage Park, 415 Williams Blvd. in Rivertown.

The festival and parade, sponsored by the Asociación Nicaragüense de Louisiana (ANDELA), is open to the public. All proceeds from sponsorships and donations will be used to purchase Christmas toys for disadvantaged children.

The origins of the festival date back to the end of the 19th century in Managua, Nicaragua with the discovery – surrounded in mysticism – of a small Catholic statuette of Saint Dominic (Santo Domingo de Guzman). The result was a massive festival filled with excitement and happiness that would be held on a regular basis.

Highlights this year include a representation of Santo Domingo’s arrival preceded by a parade that enters the park accompanied by the rhythms of folkloric music and featuring popular Nicaraguan characters including “Gigantoma” – a gigantic woman that dances to the sound of drums and “Cabezón” – her short and big-headed dance partner and the life-size bull and cows who all dance around the Saint as he parades through the park.

Young women in folkloric costumes also are part of the parade. Later is the crowning of the “India Bonita” (Queen of the Festival). Following the festival is a dance party with salsa and Latin dance music, along with Hispanic dishes and refreshments.

Louisiana has historically had a strong Hispanic influence, beginning in 1762 when it was a Spanish colony before being turned over the French.

“Saint Dominick Fest is an amazing celebration that has grown over the years,” Kenner Mayor Michael Yenni said. “It is only fitting this festival is in Kenner, the location of one of the largest Hispanic communities in the entire New Orleans area. I urge everyone to stop by Rivertown and enjoy this wonderful event.”

For more information on Tope Santo Domingo, call event coordinator Rafael Saddy at (504) 464-4619.

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