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LIVESTRONG Challenge rides into Davis

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Written by
Leshia Ruffin

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DAVIS, CA - Lance Armstrong's 2011 LIVESTRONG Challenge held in Davis this weekend attracted over 1,400 bike riders from 36 states and nine countries, all in support of cancer survivors.

PHOTOS: LIVESTRONG bike challenge

In its first year in Davis, challenge participants raised more than \$880,000 for cancer survivor support programs and awareness. Armstrong rode in the event Sunday morning and greeted cancer survivors young and old.

"We're thrilled and grateful to be able to bring the LIVESTRONG Challenge to Davis for the first time this year," said Armstrong, chairman and founder of LIVESTRONG. "The Davis community has opened its arms and we want to thank everyone who has contributed to the success of Sunday's Challenge."

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Lance Armstrong and 92-year-old cancer survivor Georgia Presnell.

Karen Linn, of Mariposa, said this was her third time riding in the challenge, but this year's event was special. She was diagnosed with thyroid cancer in December.

"I just finished all of my cancer treatments and everything," Linn said. "I'm free of cancer now and it means a lot to be able to do this today."

Cancer survivors who rode in the challenge Sunday received a special token of

recognition.

"Anyone who received a yellow rose is a cancer survivor and they come down a special lane in celebration and a yellow rose is handed (to them) at the finish line," said Leigh Harmon with LIVESTRONG.

Sunday's bike challenge featured multi-distance rides including 20, 45, 70 or 105-mile options.

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