



MISSING IN Harris County DAY

Helping families of MISSING PERSONS make connections

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Wednesday, April 18, 2018

For Immediate Release

2018 Missing in Harris County Day Scheduled for Sunday, April 22 *15 Missing Persons FOUND since event's inception in 2015*

Left-behind families and friends of missing persons are invited to attend the 4th annual Missing in Harris County Day on Sunday, April 22 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The event will be held at the Texas Southern University Barbara Jordan-Mickey Leland School of Public Affairs located at 3301 Cleburne St, (at the intersection of Cleburn and Tierwester). At Missing in Harris County Day, families and friends of the missing can make connections with local agencies and missing persons' advocates to learn how to make their search more successful.

"The missing persons issue is known as our nation's 'Silent Disaster'," said Sharon M. Derrick, Ph.D., identification manager/forensic anthropologist, Harris County Institute of Forensic Sciences. "Locally, many of the agencies involved in locating the missing are working together to address the problem in our community by hosting Missing in Harris County Day."

The event brings all the elements of a missing persons search, from filing a Missing Persons Report to submitting a DNA sample for identification, to one location providing families a more successful environment for reconnecting with missing loved ones.

At the 2018 Missing in Harris County Day, families and friends of the missing can:

- Learn how to file a missing persons report or file a missing persons report on-site
- Speak to representatives from different agencies that can provide assistance
- Voluntarily submit a DNA sample with a cheek swab to be entered into missing persons databases for identification purposes

"We really encourage every family or friend of a missing person to participate in this important event. There is a community of support waiting to help all who come," said Beth Alberts, chief executive officer, Texas Center for the Missing.

Families searching for a loved one should bring the following to 2018 Missing in Harris County Day:

- Your photo ID
- Photos of the missing person – helpful photos will include the person photographed with any identifying features, such as tattoos or birthmarks, or personal items, such as favorite earrings
- Closely related family members from the mother's side for the voluntary submission of DNA. Bring two family members if possible
- X-rays, dental or medical records, police reports or other identifying documents that can be scanned and placed on file

2018 Missing in Harris County Day Partners

Harris County Sheriff's Office, Harris County Community Services, Harris County Institute of Forensic Sciences, Galveston County Medical Examiner's Office, Houston Police Department, South Texas Human Rights Center, Texas Center for the Missing. Other collaborators and in-kind sponsors include: National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System (NamUs)



About Missing in Harris County Day 2018

Established in Harris County in 2015 and modeled after similar events held around the nation, including New York and Michigan, Missing in Harris County Day is designed to help families and friends with missing loved ones make connections with agencies that can help bring the missing home. This year, 2018, is the first year that the event is being held in conjunction with Missing in North Texas Day. Participating agencies that can assist families and friends of missing persons include local law enforcement and social service agencies as well as various missing persons networks, such as the Texas Center for the Missing.

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