BRIEF HISTORY

The Marin County Middle School/Junior High School Cross Country Championship was founded in October 1971 by Donald Meroff. There were only 42 runners that first year participating in three boy’s and one girls’ race. They represented Santa Venetia, coached by Don Meroff, and Davidson, coached by Jerry Hansen and Hank Ryan. Each school won two first places.

All middle and junior high schools in Marin joined the program in 1973. There are now four/five meets each year with this year being the third year the championship is held at Indian Valley Open Space. Each year between 300-400 students run in the final championship.

The course is one and one-quarter miles in distance. All participants who finish the race receive a ribbon. The top runners, including the first-place winner, are awarded a medal.

To complete in the final meet, a runner must participate in at least one meet before the championship race. All competitors will run by grade level.

The following people have this event a success over the years:

Manny Arroyo
Peggy Austin
Dave Barni
Laura Benjamin
Lala Briggs
Matthew Bruner
Dolels Burch
Lori Coppola
Peter Donoff
Peter Eldredge

Brad Fink
Kevin Finn
Jose Fusilier
Matt Gillespie
Jerry Hansen
Steve Hoffmire
Greg Irish
Norlene Jones
Phil Jonik
Matthew Kelly

Tom McAllister
Tom McCutcheon
Bruce Mendle
Don Meroff
Marilyn Murphy
Gene Ng
Joyce Niboli
Jeremy Noble
Reed Nottingham
Gary Oefinger

Ray Orwig
Brian Rasmussen
Hank Ryan
Eileen Smith
Laura Smith
Paul Stevens
Bob Thompson
Bill Tucker
Don Vachini
Susie Van Buskirk
Scott Zellers

The 1990 Cross Country Championship was dedicated to the memory of Bob Thompson. Bob gave freely of himself for the students of Marin Luther King Jr. Academy. He was a war hero, an athlete, a principal, a teacher, a coach and mostly a friend to all. The 2013-14 school year is the 43rd year of the Marin County Cross Country Championships.

On October 21, 2010, Don Meroff, the Founder and Meet Director of the Middle School/Junior High Cross Country Championship for 40 years retired. The Don Meroff Award was created for the outstanding contributions in Cross Country.