

Journey to the End of the Night San Francisco



Annual Report 2017

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1. What is Journey to the End of the Night?

For twelve years straight, the annual street game most commonly referred to as “Journey” has been played on the streets of San Francisco. It’s the largest event of it’s kind; for the last four years or so it’s drawn between 700 and 2000 participants. The game turns players into runners, who make their way through the city, pursued by chasers as time ticks away. Their goal is to make it to as many checkpoints as they can, and then finally to the end-site before a specific end time without getting tagged by a chaser. If they do get tagged, they become a chaser and must try to tag as many runners as they can. The entirely volunteer core crew of organizers have been giving the game themes and adding story elements to the experience. Checkpoints are like mini-games within the larger game. It’s free to play, but JttEotN accepts donations online as well as cash on the day of to cover material costs.



2. 2018 Edition

Theme

The theme for 2018 was Sun, Moon and Stars. Runners were referred to as members of Nox Aeterna, a secretive sect of merry-making stargazers who prefer the night over the day. By visiting as many of the checkpoints as they could, Nox Aeterna was extending the darkness of the night. Their blue armbands were their “starlight” and their star-maps guided them to 5 celestial sites. The red banded chasers were referred to as Sol Keepers and their goal was to take away Nox Aeterna’s starlight, thereby shortening the night and extending the light of day. At the end-site, a short skit awaited all players, telling the tale of the Sol Keepers and Nox Aeterna members in a confrontation, only to discover that they had to work together to defeat a threatening black hole. Love conquers the black hole, and all Sol Keepers and Nox Aeterna members form a big group hug and live from thence forth together in peace.

Date, start location and map

The event was held on October 13th. The JttEotN organization worked together with San Francisco’s Parks & Rec department to make the start location possible at Civic Center. From there, runners dispersed in the directions of Grace Cathedral, Chinatown, the Embarcadero, Ina Coolbreth Park and eventually Coit Tower. This year the core crew experimented with a section of the map hidden away under a black shroud. Runners



had to make it to at least 2 checkpoints before the rest of the map would become visible to them. This game mechanic added a lot of stress onto the Chinatown checkpoint, which the majority of the players chose to visit as their second destination because of how it was situated on the map.

Number of participants

This year there were 680 players at the start site. The end-site did not keep track of how many players arrived at Coit Tower, nor how many of them arrived as blue or red players. There was, however, a very large number of people who attended the final performance, and at the end of the skit runners and chasers gathered together to form a gigantic group hug which brought smiles to everyone's faces.

Number of volunteers

A core crew of 7 people started planning the event on July 12th 2017. 4 Additional volunteers took on "checkpoint lead" roles, helping to create the diverse mini-games that runners got to experience. One checkpoint was music-themed, where musical duo The Letterboxers performed acoustic covers of nighttime themed songs. On the day of the event, roughly 50 people volunteered total.

Feedback

Feedback was gathered from participants through a guest book at the end-site, video testimonial from the mobile resurrection tandem, online written survey reports and verbal accounts. Feedback was generally very positive. The majority of the people told us that the game was hard but worth it, they expressed appreciation for many of the checkpoints' creativity and the overall thrill of the chasing/being chased. There was some difficulty with the Twitter communication for the mobile resurrection tandem, but those who did get resurrected had a fantastic time going through the tandem's creative challenges.

3. Financials

At a Glance

January 2018 Opening Balance:	\$2495.51
December 2018 Closing Balance:	\$2318.73

2018 Expenses

Parks and Recreation Permit for Civic Center:	\$1048.00
Event Insurance:	\$379.47
MailChimp (3 months):	\$440
Overdraft fee:	\$36
Volunteer Reimbursements:	\$602.54

2017 Income

Eventbrite Donations:	\$1319.26
Paypal Donations:	\$651.97
Venmo Donations:	\$358.00



In 2018 we spent approximately \$200 more than what we earned. Many of the checkpoint leads did not ask for their expenses reimbursed, if they had, we would've been even more over-budget.

4. People and thank yous

Journey to the End of the Night's board members are: Norna, Jan,, Michael, and Thomas.

The board would like to thank 2018's core crew members Deb, Jasmine, Shawn, and Shane, as well as checkpoint leads Eric, Pratik, and Alex. We would like to thank the Letterboxers and everyone who acted in the skit at the end site. Wed' like to thank Shalaco and Phoenix for being the mobile resurrection tandem and for recording video of the event.

The board also wishes to thank everyone who volunteered at the start site, end site, at the checkpoints, and as a starting chaser on the day of the event. We would like to thank Tom and Tyler for their photography.

The board would also like to thank all 680 participants and everyone who made a financial contribution, whether online or in cash.

