

Brockton goes for Guinness Book record for Santa hats on Sunday

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BROCKTON —

Signature Healthcare Brockton Hospital purchased 10,000 red Santa hats to distribute last week to every Brockton elementary school and Brockton High School student to try to smash the 700-person record of greatest number of people at one time in one place wearing a Santa Claus hat.

That record was set last year in Mullingar, Ireland, besting the original record set a year earlier in Brockton with 507 people.

Organizer John Merian, a member of the Greater Brockton Holiday Parade planning committee, which is also planning the Santa Hat Challenge, said he hopes the majority of the students will show up Sunday at 1 p.m. for the official count.

The hat challenge is part of the committee's efforts to celebrate Brockton's history as the city with the first-ever department store Santa Claus, played in 1890 by James Edgar, owner of the downtown Edgar's Department Store.

Many of the elementary schools in the area will be decorating the hats before Sunday.

The students will have to make their own way to the official count on Sunday. A good showing could push the limits of the one-block stretch of Main Street, at Crescent Street, that will be blocked off for the occasion.

Festivities for the Santa Hat Challenge will start at 11:30 a.m. with DJ Joe Lupica playing holiday music. The sign-in for the count will start at noon, with the official count happening in front of the parking garage at 1 p.m.

Participants will be automatically registered in a raffle for up to 30 prizes, including an Amazon Kindle.

Anyone can participate, and there will be extra Santa hats on sale at the event for \$1. Proceeds benefit the Holiday Parade fund.

Santa Hat Challenge

When: Sunday at 1 p.m.; entertainment starts at 11:30 a.m.

Where: Main Street at Crescent Street in Brockton



Brockton High School Principal Susan Szachowicz addresses the 2,200 students wearing Santa hats in the gymnasium bleachers to tell them about the city's plan to earn entry in the Guinness Book of World Records on Sunday



Brockton High School senior Sean Caldwell leads the cheers as students donned Santa hats, which were distributed in the high school Friday. Officials hope the kids will bring them downtown at 1 p.m. Sunday as the city attempts to earn recognition by the Guinness Book of World Records for the most Santa hats in one place



BHS Principal Susan Szachowicz and John Merian join some of the 2,200 students wearing Santa hats in school



Students exit the gymnasium wearing their Santa hats



Students gather in the gymnasium bleachers wearing their Santa hats



John Merian speaks to the students as Brockton High School principal Susan Szachowicz looks on during a distribution of Santa hats