

Teen program gets state nomination

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A Hart district fitness program that trains students for marathons has been nominated for the Governor's Spotlight Award.

Known as Students Off And Running, or SOAR, the William S. Hart Union High School District program run by Kevin Sarkisian, recruits students from local high schools and trains them to run marathons throughout Southern

California.

This past year, nearly 20 students from Golden Valley High School and Academy of the Canyons were part of SOAR.

Many of the students in the program come from low-income homes or struggle academically and have never run in a marathon or had the opportunity to try one. The program is endorsed by the Santa Clarita Track Club.

Throughout the season, kids trained together for

5Ks, 10Ks, and sprints before testing their skills at the 26.2-mile Los Angeles Marathon earlier this year.

The winners of the 2011 Governor's Spotlight Award will be announced in September.

In the meantime, local residents can show their support for SOAR by visiting www.calgoveouncil.org/spotlight and clicking on "Organizations" and finding SOAR.

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