

I Dig S.A.

I DIG SA: Kids clued in on S.A. Amazing Preservation Race



Credit: Martha Cerna / KENS 5

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by Martha Cerna / KENS 5

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At the second annual Amazing Preservation Race parents guided their kids (when they could keep up with them) through the historic King William neighborhood on a quest to find five specially designated homes.

To find the right one, they had to follow the clues and spot specific historic architectural features: an arch, balcony, balustrade, bay window, broken scroll, carriage step, dormer window, pediment, and tower, to name a few. At each of the homes, children had to point out their finds, pass a fun skills test (like landing a horse shoe) before they received their clue to the next destination.

Parents joined in on the hunt, sharing historical tidbits provided by race organizers: **The City of San Antonio's Office of Historic Preservation, Villa Finale** and the **San Antonio Conservation Society**.

The Steves Homestead at 509 King William St. served as the finish line. Thank goodness. It was a muggy, close day, and these sweaty little scavengers needed to replenish their electrolytes.

Waiting for them in the (air-conditioned) Steves River House (originally the site of Mrs. Steves' natatorium) was quite a nice spread courtesy of Southtown's The Friendly Spot Ice House. (We checked out the delightfully refreshing watermelon lemonade - and were not at all sorry we did!)

Craft tables were set up for children to use their own skills to replicate the Steves house in Crayolas and precut shapes.

Then back out to the yard for hoola-hoop, bocce ball, jump rope, tree-climbing, maze-running, and, of course, awards. All in all, it was most rewarding morning for everyone, but perhaps even more so for a troop of young Girl Scouts. This historic preservation event provided them with the final hurdle to winning their architecture badge. Nice work!

(The adult version of The Amazing Preservation Race took place on Friday, May 13. If you missed it, check out the **City of San Antonio's Office of Historic Preservation's** website and mark you calendar for next May - Preservation Month. And in the time being, sign-up to take a guided running and walking tour.)

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