

Florie Pineda – Run 6

Tell us about yourself?

I'm 47 years young (not old) and I'm originally from El Salvador. I've lived in Ventura County almost my entire life and I'm not planning on moving out of this sunny weather state any time soon. I'm an Accountant/Payroll/Human Resources Administrator during the day and I'm a fitness instructor at night. I have been teaching fitness classes for the past 10 years! Fitness is my passion and I kinda regret that I didn't discover running until the end of 2013.

What inspired me to do the Sketchers Performance LA Marathon?

Five years ago, a person told me that I was too old to start running long distance. Her comment bothered me but it motivated me more to move forward and continue my running journey. Within days, I had officially signed up for LA Marathon 2015. It was on March 15, 2015 that my eyes saw the city of LA from a different angle. It was on this day that I realized that nothing is impossible to achieve when you put your heart and soul in it. It was on this day that I realized that this 5-foot-tall Latina had crossed the finished line of her very first marathon!!! That's right, 26.2 freaking miles!!! Did I cry?? Oh my God I sure did!! LA has never looked the same ever since. I get chills when I step foot at Dodgers stadium or even when I drive by a part of the course. LA Marathon is close to my heart.

My running journey has not been easy. Every single one of the last 4 LA Marathons have been a struggle - from back issues, ankles issues, stomach issues and dislocated discs on my neck to name a few. But, I proudly can tell you that I although I have not PR, I've crossed the finished line 4 times! This year I pray I do well and finish with a better time than last.

My favorite thing about LARR?

I didn't know what LARR was until 2016. I started in group 7 and currently I'm with group 6 for a second year. I was overwhelmed with the training at first but I took it one week at a time. What I love about LARR is that although we all are in different pace groups, we have one thing in common, we want to finish! The training, support, feedback and advice we get each season is fabulous and it does work! I think my injuries would have beaten me if I had not trained with LARR.

My favorite quote:

"It always seems impossible until it's done" Nelson Mandela and "Go fast enough to get there, but slow enough to see" Jimmy Buffett. Why are these my favorite quotes? Because I've achieved what I once thought it was impossible and I've run fast enough to finish but slow enough to make memories that will last a life time!!