**MINISTRY OF CULTURE AND SPORTS**

**GENERAL DIRECTORATE OF ANTIQUITIES AND CULTURAL HERITAGE**



**PRESS RELEASE**

**Celebrating the Authentic Marathon**

**at the National Archaeological Museum**

The idea of supreme competitive effort of humans to make their body more capable and by the power of the mind invent various techniques was the principal characteristic of athletics. In ancient Greece the athletics and the various contests were interwined with their lives, legends, religion and their awareness of being Greek. Athletes are people who specialized in one or more sporting events as well as members of a society which over the course of time can turn rivalty into virtue.

The National Archaeological Museum celebrating the forthcoming Authentic Marathon in Athens on 11th November 2018 and the idea of competitive effort has organized a thematic tour about sports and athletes in antiquity. By means of a special educational leaflet (in English) available at the entrance of the Museum from **Monday 5th to Monday 12th of November**, athletes participating in the authentic marathon will be able to stroll through the galleries of the Museum and get acquainted with a series of exhibits related with sports and athletics (e.g. training for athletes, races, prizes).

The entrance to the Museum is free for the first 100 athletes that will ask for the educational leaflet at the Information Desk of the Museum, upon presenting their participation number for the Marathon.

Contact details:

**Address**: 28th October (Patission) str. 44, Athens 10682

**Tel**: 213214 4800

**Opening hours (until 31/3)**: Monday 13:00-20:00, Tuesday-Sunday 09:00-16:00

**Email**:[eam@culture.gr](mailto:eam@culture.gr)

**Website**: [www.namuseum.gr](http://www.namuseum.gr)

**Facebook**:[www.facebook.com/namuseum/](http://www.facebook.com/namuseum/)

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Photo Captions:

Fig. 1. Bronze statuette of a maiden participating in a race in honour of the goddess Hera at Olympia. The young girls were running, wearing short chitons and with their hair loose. 550-540 BC. (© National Archaeological Museum/Archaeological Receipts Fund).

Fig. 2. Depiction of three young runners on an attic black-figured vase. From their body posture it is deducted that they participate in *stadion,* a race of approximately 190 metres. Around 540 BC. (© National Archaeological Museum/Archaeological Receipts Fund).