

SAN ANTONIO MEMBERS TAKE TO THE RIVER

In March, 38 San Antonio, Texas SGI-USA members and their friends participated in the city-wide Adopt-a-River Program, also affectionately known as the Basura Bash. (*Basura* is a Spanish word for trash; *bash* is English for party.) The purpose of this “party,” which actually required quite a bit of work, was to clean up the River City’s most cherished natural resource, the San Antonio River.

The activity was in line with this year’s SGI theme of Victory in the Community for the New Century. The local San Antonio youth division and Public Relations Committee first discussed taking on the project more than a year ago with the San Antonio Area leadership, who approved the idea. This was the second year of participation. Sixteen youth division members participated in the March 13 cleanup and were supported by all the other divisions and two friends of the SGI. This was more than double last year’s participation and surpassed, by two, the 1999 goal. The members now have a strong determination to double that number again next year.

Meanwhile, the local SGI-USA has been given the ongoing responsibility of maintaining what turns out to be one of the most beautiful sections of the river, replete with green meadows, picnic tables, an irrigation dam and the Espada Aqueduct, the oldest continuously used Spanish-built diversion dam in Texas, completed some time between 1731 and 1745. Members will gather twice more this year to gather trash there.

— *BRANT MILLER*