



# AKRON MARATHON

## RACE SERIES

MARATHON  
HALF | RELAY

PRESENTED BY  
**FirstEnergy**

# Runner and Spectator Guide 2017

AKRON MARATHON / HALF MARATHON / TEAM RELAY / KIDS FUN RUN

WWW.AKRONMARATHON.ORG

INFORMATION PROVIDED IN THIS GUIDE IS **NOT** FINAL. FINAL INFORMATION WILL BE PROVIDED 2 WEEKS PRIOR TO THE RACE DATE.

## Schedule of Events

### Friday, September 22, 2017

#### Health & Fitness Expo Presented by Summa Health and SummaCare

11:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.

John S. Knight Center

77 E. Mill Street

Akron, OH 44308

- Free event & open to the public
- Featuring a wide variety of exhibitor booths
- Packet pick up & final race registration, if not sold out
- Official race Merchandise Store featuring ASICS licensed apparel
- Pinning Ceremony for 5-year, 10-year and 15-year Club Members

#### Pasta Party

5:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

(8:00 p.m. last seating)

John S. Knight Center / Ground Level

- \$22 for adults; \$10 for children 4-12; FREE for children 3-years and under
- All you can eat pasta & salad buffet; includes beverages & dessert
- Tickets sold day of Expo only
- RSVP online

#### Kids Fun Run Presented by Signet

Lock 3 Start/Finish

6:30 p.m. Race Start

200 S. Main Street

Akron, OH 44308

- 5:00 p.m. Check-in opens
- FREE 1-mile fun run
- Open to children 12-years of age and under
- All participants receive a commemorative item, medal & healthy snack

### Saturday, September 23, 2017

FirstEnergy Akron Marathon,  
Half Marathon & Team Relay

#### Race Start

217 S. High Street

Akron, OH 44308

- 5:30 a.m. Announcements begin
- 6:00 a.m. Opening Ceremony
- 6:59 a.m. Wheelchair Division Start
- 7:00 a.m. Marathon, Half Marathon & Team Relay Start

#### Finisher Festival & Awards

8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Canal Park Stadium

300 S. Main Street

Akron, OH 44308

- Stadium seating open to the public
- Brouse Cup presentation & Awards
- Runner Finisher Festival



# Health & Fitness Expo Presented by Summa Health and SummaCare



All runners MUST pick up their packets at the Health and Fitness Expo on Friday, September 22, 2017. The packet includes a commemorative goodie bag and race bib with timing device. Before you leave, be sure to pick up your shirt located at the exit of the Expo hall. Each runner (even those running the relay) should pick up his or her own packet. If you are unable to pick up your packet someone can pick up your packet for you and verify the contact information. There is NO packet pick-up the day of the race. Unless caps have been met, the final day to register is at the Expo on Friday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**John S. Knight Center**  
**77 E. Mill St.**  
**Akron, OH 44308**  
**11:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.**

## Getting to the Expo

### Driving Directions prior to 7:00 p.m.

#### From the Turnpike I-80 East/Rt. 8

Follow Rt. 8 South to Perkins St. Turn right on Perkins St. Turn left on High St. (High St. is a one-way street going South). JSK Center is located on the left at the corner of High & Mill St.

#### From the North I-77/I-76 (they run concurrently briefly)

VIA I-76 Exit at Main/Broadway/Downtown. You will merge with a one-way side street (South St.). Follow South St. to the 2<sup>nd</sup> light. At that point all traffic MUST turn left onto Broadway, which is a one-way street. Travel North following Broadway to Mill St. (about 1-1 1/2 miles). JSK Center is located at the corner of Broadway & Mill St.

#### From the North I-71 to 18 East to 77South

Exit at Main/Broadway/ Downtown (follow directions above)

#### From the South I-71 to 76 East

VIA I-76 Exit at Main/Broadway/Downtown. You will merge with a one-way side street (South St.). Follow South St. to the 2<sup>nd</sup> light. At that point all traffic MUST turn left onto Broadway, which is a one-way street. Travel North following Broadway to Mill St. (about 1-1 1/2 miles). JSK Center is located at the corner of Broadway & Mill St.

#### From the South I-77/I-76

VIA I-77 to Rt. 8 North. Exit at Perkins. Turn left on Perkins, turn left on High St.

Parking is available on High & Broadway. Rates vary.

### High Street Detour after 7:00 p.m.

High Street will be closed at Bowery starting at 7:00 p.m. on Friday, September 22, 2017 for the installation of the Start Line structure. If you are leaving the Expo after 7:00 p.m. you will need to either exit onto Broadway or take High Street and turn right on Bowery, turn left on Main Street, turn left on University, then right on High Street. From 6:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m. Main Street will be closed for the Kids Fun Run. Anyone wishing to travel south during these times can take Broadway to a right on Market to Route 8 or take Broadway to a left onto Route 59.

# Start Line

6:00 a.m. - Opening Ceremony

7:00 a.m. - Start / 217 S. High St.

## Parking

Free parking, at designated city decks and lots, is available throughout downtown on race day. It is advised to follow the race bib color coded parking guide to enhance traffic flow and reduce confusion race morning. It is recommended to be in downtown prior to 6:00 a.m. due to street closures starting at this time.

## Race Number / Bibs

Your race bib serves as your identification for the race. Participants must pin the bib on the front of his or her shirt. Safety pins will be provided at the Expo, as well as at the Start Line Information Booth and at the Relay Exchange Zones. It is imperative that the registration data associated with your race number does, in fact, belong to you, the participant. While it may seem harmless to run under an unauthorized number, it does convey serious consequences to the organizers and

participant field alike. Correct information allows medical staff to identify participants in need of treatment and ensures accuracy of race results and awards. For those participating in either the Marathon or Half Marathon your race bib contains your timing chip which is a disposable timing system for accurate timing and scoring. Please take care not to bend or cut your race bib, in doing so you may damage your timing device. You will not need to remove the tag from the bib to put on your shoe. The timing device remains on your bib. Official time is based on Gun Time in accordance to USATF rules.

## ChronoTrack Timing System

Marathon and Half Marathon runners will have their timing device within their bib (B-tag) rather than the D-tag which gets attached to the shoe. This means your chip timing system is a part of your bib rather than a tag placed on your shoe. Make sure your bib is placed securely on the **FRONT** of your shirt. **Relay runners** will utilize the D-tag which features a removable strip on the

runner's bib that should be peeled off and attached to your shoe before the race. The tags will register your time when you pass over the timing mat at the finish of your relay leg. All runners must attach their timing tag to their shoe prior to starting their leg of the race. Make sure the number on the D-Tag is facing up forming the letter "D" and do not flatten. Do not cross the Finish Line or any timing mat twice. Official time is based on Gun Time in accordance to USATF rules.

## CORRAL ASSIGNMENT

**Elite**-Assigned runners in the Marathon/Half Marathon  
**Seeded**- Assigned runners in the Marathon/Half Marathon  
**Corral A** - 5:00 to 8:29 pace  
**Corral B** - 8:30 to 9:29 pace  
**Corral C** - 9:30 to 11:26 pace  
**Corral D**- 11:27 to 16:00 pace

## Start Line Corral System

To improve the race day experience for all participants corral assignments have been instituted for the race. There will be 6 corrals in which runners will be staged for the start of the race. The corrals will be assigned based on information collected during registration. Corral assignments will be indicated on each participant's race bib by a letter on the bib. Entrances will be accessed at the rear of each corral and will be open to race participants only. Entrances will be monitored and correct placement will be enforced. On race day, participants will not be able to move forward to another corral. However, they will be permitted to move backwards if they feel that is a better option for them or would like to start with another participant. If a participant would like to move up a corral they must visit the Pace Team Booth at the Expo and provide justification for their request. In an effort to allow all 6 corrals to run at their desired pace sooner, we will release each corral separately while walking up the next corral for their own separate start. Since all runners' times begin when they pass over the Start Line timing mats, this adjustment will not affect the final race time or place in the race.

## Gear Check

Gear check drop-off and pick-up will be in one central location for 2017. Gear Check will be located at the intersection of Main and Buchtel across from the main gates of Canal Park. Runners can place their extra clothing and items not needed on the race course in the provided clear gear bags to be dropped off at the Gear Check location or at the start of relay legs 4 and 5. Look for the tall flags labeled "Gear Check". The clear gear bags will only be available at the Health and Fitness Expo at the FedEx Custom Critical Expo Booth. Attached to the side of your race bib, you will find your gear bag identification tag. Remove the tag from your bib and adhere the tag to the top of your gear bag. Relay bags will be delivered from the start of relay legs 4 and 5 to the Gear Check tent located at the corner of Main and Buchtel. Items must be picked up day of race by 1:00 p.m. Any unclaimed bags will be held for two weeks after the race. If you would rather discard your items at the Start Line, volunteers will be around to collect discarded items to be donated to a local charity.



# Course Details

## Course Information

The course is a certified USATF sanctioned course and your time may be used as a qualifier for the Boston Marathon. The entire race is run on paved asphalt and concrete streets.

## Course Limit

The Marathon course is officially open for six hours from 7:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.; equivalent to approximately 13:44 per mile marathon pace. The half marathon route will remain open for three and a half hours, equivalent to a 16:02 per mile pace. Runners slower than this pace will be asked to move to the sidewalk or board the SAG – six-hour pace vehicle. The Finish Line, medical aid stations and fluid stations will remain open for a six-hour pace and close on schedule. Runners are responsible for knowing the course.

## SAG – 6-hour pace vehicle

The SAG vehicle will travel at the course closing, six hour, pace and will pick up runners along the route and at aid stations, who choose to discontinue the race or fall behind pace (under non-medical circumstances). The SAG Bus will follow the half marathon pace until they split from the full marathon course and then catch up to the marathon course closure pace ultimately ending at the Finish Line inside Canal Park Stadium.

## Mile Markers & Clocks

Mile Markers will be highly visible at each mile. Clocks and Kilometer markers are located every 5K, from 5K - 40K to assist runners in gauging their progress.

M	MARATHON
H	HALF MARATHON
R	TEAM RELAY

## Color Coded Directional Signs

As you approach all Relay Exchange Zones, the split for the Half Marathon

and at the Finish Line you will see color coded signs that match your bib color. Please stay to the side of the road that corresponds to your bib color for a hassle-free transition through these critical points.

## Entertainment Along the Course

The entire Akron community has been invited to cheer on runners along the course. There will be course entertainment throughout the 26.2 mile race course. Watch for Hero Zones, live bands, pep bands, block parties, cheerleaders and energetic fluid stations.

## Restrooms

Portable restrooms, each with Purell hand cleaner, will be available throughout the course, including the Start and Finish Lines, fluid stations, Relay Exchange Zones, and relay bus loading area. Of those restrooms, half will be designated for women and equipped with tampons.

## Energy Gel

Energy gels will be provided at 3 stations along the full marathon course. Each of these locations is approximately 500 feet before a fluid station. Runners that require energy gel earlier or at different times should plan to be self-supported. Energy gel on the race course is intended for those that engage in 1-hour or more of physical activity and is therefore reserved for **marathoners** and **half marathoners only**.

## Fluid Stations

There will be fluid stations throughout the race course supplying lemon lime sports drink and water to runners. As you approach a fluid station, water will be available first followed by sports drink. Additionally, fluids will be distributed at the Start and Finish Lines. We do not recommend taking food or fluids from non-official locations.

## Medical Aid Stations



There will be aid stations available to runners throughout the race course. Additionally, there will be an aid station at the Start and Finish

Lines, as well as on the concourse at Canal Park. Summa Health will coordinate all medical assistance during this event. For your safety, it is important to print any specific medical needs on the reverse side of your race bib. Medical stations will be equipped to assist runners with any basic medical needs and will also have a supply of Band-Aids and Vaseline if needed. There will be NON-MEDICAL aid shuttles to transport runners, who choose not to continue the race, from the aid tents back to the Finish Line. For medical emergencies, an ambulance will be called to transport the runner to a local hospital. Course marshals will be positioned approximately every mile if you need to alert someone that you need immediate medical assistance while on the course. NSAID's (Non-Steroidal Anti-inflammatory Drugs such as Advil, Aleve, Ibuprofen, etc.) will NOT be provided at the aid tents. NSAIDs, especially in a dehydrated runner, can adversely affect the kidneys and can increase the risk of hyponatremia (low blood sodium). Tylenol will be available.

Located at each aid station, as well as each Relay Exchange Zone, there will be a color-coded flag system to update participants on the course alert level. Please see chart for details.

ALERT LEVEL	EVENT CONDITIONS	RECOMMENDED ACTIONS
EXTREME	Extreme and Dangerous/ Event Cancelled	Participation stopped/ follow event official instructions
HIGH	Potentially Dangerous	Slow down/ observe course changes/ follow official instruction/ consider stopping
MODERATE	Less than Ideal	Slow down/ be prepared for worsening conditions
LOW	Good	Enjoy the event/ Be Alert

## Prohibited on the Race Course

For the safety of our runners, the Akron Marathon does not permit: pets, skateboards, strollers, bicycles, roller blades, or any other types of vehicles (other than official Marathon vehicles) on the course. Please do not bring or carry any of these items with you. The Akron Marathon reserves the right to disqualify and remove anyone from the course who has any of the above items or does not act in a safe manner. All participants agree to abide by and accept the rules of this race and abide by any decision of any race official concerning the runner's ability to safely complete the race.

## Unauthorized Runners

Non-registered runners are not permitted to run or walk within the boundaries of the official marathon course. It is important that family and friends NEVER cross the Finish Line or enter the finish zone which begins approximately 2/10 mile before the finish. Course monitors and police will be stationed throughout the course, assuring only registered runners are on the course. Please be sure your race number is visible from the FRONT at all times during the race.

## Drug Policy

Athletes who participate in this competition may be subject to drug testing by the United States Anti-Doping Agency (USADA) in accordance with the IAAF Procedural Guidelines for Doping Control or the Olympic Movement Anti-Doping code. Any substance taken by an athlete is at his/her own risk and may result in a positive sample. Information on drugs and drug testing may be obtained by calling the USADA Drug Reference Hotline at 800-233-0393 or visiting the USADA website.

## Lost & Found

All items left at the event will be taken to the Information Booth located in Canal Park Stadium. After the race any unclaimed items will be transported to the Akron Marathon office. Please call the office at (330) 434-2786 to inquire about lost items. Unclaimed items will be donated to a local charity after October 10<sup>th</sup>. The Akron Marathon is not responsible for lost items.

### Pace Teams

The Akron Marathon is providing an additional benefit for the Marathon, Half Marathon up to the split point, by offering pace teams led by experienced pacers for the following times: 3:05, 3:10, 3:15, 3:25, 3:30, 3:35, 3:40, 3:45, 3:55, 4:00, 4:10, 4:25, 4:40, 4:55, 5:00, 5:10, 5:25 and 6:00 (times include many of the Boston qualifying standards). The pace leader runs a steady pace and keeps track of that pace so the group can achieve their goal of finishing the marathon at a particular time. Pace leaders are experienced runners that have run several marathons around the country. There is no cost to run with the pace group. Visit the Pace Team booth at the Expo to sign up or find the pace groups at the Start Line before the race.

## Information Booth

For our runners' convenience, Information Booths will be located throughout the event. Booths will be clearly identified. Information Booths can be found at the Health and Fitness Expo, Start Line and Finish Line.

## Spectator Information

The Akron Marathon will start at 217 S. High Street at 7:00 a.m. With a downtown start, spectators have great opportunities to see the runners from various points that require very little walking.

- Start watching the race north of the Start Line located at 217 S. High Street.
- After the start, walk one block east to Broadway and head south to University. Here you'll be able to see runners just after mile 6.
- Walk two blocks west to S. Main Street and then head south to enter Canal Park Stadium. Head to the Family Reunion Area, sections 1-5, for a great view of the Finish Line and wait for your family and friends to rejoin you here. **\*Spectators are not permitted into the runners only area starting in section 19.**

## Runner Tracking / Live Updates/ Results

Visit [akronraceseries.com](http://akronraceseries.com) to get live updates of Full Marathon, Half Marathon, or Relay Teams on race day. As runners cross over timing mats, located at various points along the course, updates will be posted on the results page. On each race bib there is a QR code for quick access to results post-race.

### Half Marathon

The Half Marathon will start at 7:00 a.m. at 217 S. High Street (the same time and location as the Marathon). The Half Marathon course runs the established marathon route until they split off to come into the stadium for their finish.

# Finish Line

## Canal Park Stadium 300 S. Main Street

### Finisher Festival

As you cross the timing mat at the Finish Line, your timing device will automatically record your time. Once you finish the race you will follow the warning track to Home Plate where you will receive your water. From Home Plate, you will proceed toward Third Base where your finishers' medal will be presented to you and Marathon and Half Marathon runners will be wrapped in a Heatsheet to keep warm. Next, you will have the opportunity to have your official finishers' photo taken. All runners will receive a slice of Papa John's Pizza located on the field. Snacks and beverages will be located at the food tent in the outfield. Once you have your food, stop by the Michelob ULTRA beer garden and enjoy your refreshments as you stretch on-field and enjoy the post-race entertainment. Portable restrooms will be located along the outfield back wall. Please be aware the Finisher Festival is a celebration for runners only, spectators will not be allowed in this area. Please make plans to meet your family and friends in the Family Reunion Area located in sections 1-5.

### Exit and Entry Points into Finisher Festival

All relay runners and participants wishing to re-enter the Finisher Festival can enter the runner-only area by utilizing the Diamond Boardwalk (back concourse) located on S. Main Street just south of the Canal Park's main entrance. Runners must present their bib to have access to this area. No spectators will be allowed in the Finisher Festival area which begins at the entrance of the Diamond Boardwalk. Please note you will not have access to the field from the main entrance to Canal Park, you must enter through the runner only entrance located at the Diamond Boardwalk.

To exit the field and to access the Gear Check, medal engraving, merchandise store and to re-enter the stadium through the main entrance, you will take either of the two exit ramps located by Third Base. These exits will lead you to the main concourse and out the Diamond Boardwalk entrance/exit to S. Main Street.

### Family Reunion

Spectators can enter through the stadium's main entrance and head to the Family Reunion area in sections 1-5. Friends and families can meet runners in this area following the race. Please designate a spot and a meeting time (i.e. 30 minutes after your anticipated finish time). There will be open concessions available.

### Photos

Photos will be taken along the race course. A photo capturing your finish as well as a photo with your medal will be taken. There will be a charge for these photos only if you choose to purchase them.

### Race Results

To get final results and live updates visit [akronraceseries.com](http://akronraceseries.com). As runners cross over timing mats, located at various points along the course and at the Finish Line, updates will be posted on the results page.

### South Main Street

On South Main Street you will be able to purchase official race merchandise, get your medal engraved with your finishing time. Also on the corner of Main St. and Buchtel, across from the main gates of Canal Park, you will find Gear Check.

### Medal Engraving

Get your Akron Marathon medal engraved near the main entrance of Canal Park Stadium. Use the QR code on your race bib for downloading your finish time. Ritchie's Sporting Goods is providing the service for a fee of \$10.

### Merchandise

Official race merchandise featuring ASICS licensed apparel will be available for purchase on South Main Street just outside the main entrance to Canal Park Stadium.

### Shower Facilities

Showers and changing facilities will be available, free of charge, courtesy of the Downtown YMCA located at 477 E. Market Street (1.5 miles from Canal Park Stadium).

### Recycling

Last year you helped divert 3.41 tons of material from the landfill which equaled 82% of all waste generated from the event. Please help us continue our recycling efforts by placing the appropriate items in the corresponding labeled bins so there is no contamination. The bins will be clearly marked for easy placement.

# Awards & Prize Money\*

## Marathon

	Men	Women	Masters Men	Masters Women
1 <sup>st</sup>	\$2500	\$2500	\$1000	\$1000
2 <sup>nd</sup>	\$1500	\$1500	\$500	\$500
3 <sup>rd</sup>	\$1000	\$1000	\$250	\$250
4 <sup>th</sup>	\$500	\$500		
5 <sup>th</sup>	\$250	\$250		

### Additional Cash Incentives:

In addition to our prize money the following cumulative, cash incentives will be given to all runners who reach threshold levels in these marathon categories:

#### Open Men

Under 2:20 - \$275

Under 2:18 - \$275

Setting Event Record [2:15:59] - \$550

#### Open Women

Under 2:45 - \$275

Under 2:42 - \$275

Setting Event Record [2:39:09] - \$550

#### Masters Men

Setting Event Record [2:23:44] - \$550

#### Masters Women

Setting Event Record [2:49:52] - \$550

### Ohio Resident Division

This prize money is awarded to the first 3 men and women to finish the marathon who are residents of the state of Ohio at the time of the race regardless of age

	Men	Women
1 <sup>st</sup>	\$750	\$750
2 <sup>nd</sup>	\$500	\$500
3 <sup>rd</sup>	\$250	\$250

### Wheelchair Division

Racing Chair Men's & Women's First Place: Trophy

### Age Group Awards

Top five Male and Female Marathon finishers in all age categories will receive recognition awards: 19 and under, 20-24, 25-29, 30-34, 35-39, 40-44, 45-49, 50-54, 55-59, 60-64, 65-69 and 70+. You can win only one award.

**\*All prize money is awarded only to citizens of the United States of America at the time of the race.**

An individual is only eligible to win prize money in one division. (i.e. A 42-year-old woman finishes second in the open marathon competition. She would earn \$1,500 but would not be eligible for the prize money in the masters division.)

## Half Marathon

	Men	Women	Masters Men	Masters Women
1 <sup>st</sup>	\$1000	\$1000	\$500	\$500
2 <sup>nd</sup>	\$750	\$750	\$375	\$375
3 <sup>rd</sup>	\$500	\$500	\$250	\$250

### Additional Cash Incentives:

In addition to our prize money the following cumulative, cash incentives will be given to all runners who reach threshold levels in these half marathon categories:

#### Open Men

Setting event record [1:03:58] - \$550

#### Open Women

Setting event record [1:14:18] - \$550

#### Masters Men

Setting event record [1:08:45] - \$550

#### Masters Women

Setting event record [1:25:29] - \$550

### Age Group Awards

Top three Male and Female Half Marathon finishers in all age categories will receive recognition awards: 19 and under, 20-24, 25-29, 30-34, 35-39, 40-44, 45-49, 50-54, 55-59, 60-64, 65-69 and 70+. You can win only one award.

### Team Relay

Recognition awards will be given to the top three teams in the Men's, Women's, Mixed, Master Men's, Master Women's, and Master Mixed categories of the 5-Person Team Relay.

### Awards Presentation

All award presentations will take place on the Awards Stage at Canal Park Stadium. The Half Marathon Awards will be presented at approximately 8:35 a.m.

Marathon Awards will be presented at approximately 10:10 a.m. Other awards will be mailed 4-6 weeks after the race.

### Finisher Certificates

Downloadable Finisher Certificates will be available at AkronMarathon.org by October 3, 2017.

# Team Relay

***Relay runners: Please note Relay Exchange Zone locations and distances are being revised for 2017!***

## Information by Relay Leg

### Relay Leg 1

- Remember to pick up your relay slap bracelet during the Expo located at packet pick-up.
- Recommended parking location for first leg runners is the University of Akron parking deck on Exchange St.
- Gear bag drop off and pick up is located in the parking lot on the corner of Main Street and Buchtel.
- The Finisher Festival is located at 300 S. Main Street on the field at Canal Park Stadium. Signage will direct you to the Finisher Festival to receive your post-race food and beverages. Please note you will need your bib to enter the Finisher Festival. When the last team member crosses the Finish Line the team will be awarded their medals. All five medals will be given to the finishing relay runner who is then responsible for handing them out to the other team members.

### Relay Leg 2

- Recommended parking location for second leg runners is the University of Akron parking deck on Exchange St.
- Gear bag drop off and pick up is located on the corner of Main Street and Buchtel.
- Walking directions back to the stadium for the Finisher Festival where you will receive your pizza, snack bag, and beverages: The Finisher Festival is located at 300 S. Main Street on the field at Canal Park Stadium. Please note you will need your bib to enter the Finisher Festival. When the last team member crosses the Finish Line the team will be awarded their medals. All five medals will be given to the finishing relay runner who is then responsible for handing them out to the other team members.

### Relay Leg 3

- Recommended parking location for third leg runners is the Opportunity Parking deck.
- Gear bag drop off and pick up is located on the corner of Main Street and Buchtel.
- Once you have completed your leg and received your finisher fluids make your way to the shuttle busses. These shuttles will drop runners off in the Spaghetti Warehouse parking lot on S. Main Street. From there, walk north on Main Street 2 blocks to the Diamond Boardwalk entrance of Canal Park, just south of the main entrance to the stadium where you can join the Finisher Festival and receive your post-race food and beverages. Please note you will need your bib to enter the Finisher Festival. When the last team member crosses the Finish Line the team will be awarded their medals. All five medals will be given to the finishing relay runner who is then responsible for handing them out to the other team members.

### Relay Leg 4

- Recommended parking location for fourth leg runners is the Opportunity Parking deck.
- It is advised to use the shuttle service provided to your Exchange Zone. You can locate the shuttle service at the Spaghetti Warehouse Parking lot, 510 S Main Street, 2 blocks south of Canal Park/Finish Line.
- When you finish, receive your finisher fluids and make your way to the return shuttle buses. These shuttles will take you back to the Spaghetti Warehouse parking lot. From there walk 2 blocks north to the Diamond Boardwalk entrance to Canal Park where you can join the Finisher Festival and receive your post-race foods and beverages. Please note you will need your bib to enter the Finisher Festival. When the last team member crosses the Finish Line the team will be awarded their medals. All five medals will be given to the finishing relay runner who is then responsible for handing them out to the other team members.

### Relay Leg 5

- Recommended parking location for fifth leg runners is the Children's Hospital Deck.
- It is advised to use the shuttle service provided to your Exchange Zone. You can locate the shuttle service at the Spaghetti Warehouse Parking lot, 510 S Main Street, 2 blocks south of Canal Park/Finish Line.
- As you finish in the stadium you will receive your finisher fluids, all five relay medals to distribute to your team members, your post-race food and beverages. You may stay on the field and get your team photo taken and enjoy the post-race entertainment.

## Transportation to Relay Exchange Zones

The first runner should report to the Start Line at 217 S. High Street. Free parking is available at designated city surface lots and parking decks downtown. There is no shuttle service to relay legs 2 or 3. The second and third runners are responsible for arriving at their Relay Exchange Zones.

### Relay Shuttle Service (Runners Only)

**Relay legs 4 & 5 are encouraged to PARK DOWNTOWN EARLY and take the FREE shuttle to their Exchange Zones. Shuttles are located at the Spaghetti Warehouse Parking lot, 510 S. Main Street, 2 blocks south of Canal Park.**



This is the fastest and most efficient way to get to the Relay Exchange Zones. There will also be shuttles that will return finishing relay legs 3 and 4 back to the Spaghetti Warehouse parking lot to take the short walk 2 blocks North to Canal Park/Finish Line. Feel free to arrange your own transportation to or from relay legs 2, 3, 4, or 5; however, we strongly encourage use of this shuttle system, as driving and parking are extremely limited in some areas.

***There is NO shuttle service to the start of relay legs 1, 2, or 3 or from the finish of relay legs 1 or 2 as it is only a short distance from Canal Park (approximately .5 mile). Departure times are dependent upon maximum occupancy of the shuttles. Return shuttle service times vary and the stated times above are estimated times. Due to many race related factors, we cannot guarantee that you will arrive at the Finish Line inside Canal Park at any specified time.***

**FedEx Custom Critical Gear Service** Your gear bags will need to be placed in the FedEx Custom Critical trucks, located at the Exchange Zones for relay legs 4 and 5, to be transported back to Gear Check located on the corner of Main St. and Buchtel, across from the main gates of Canal Park. Relay legs 1,2 &3 can drop off and pick up their gear bags inside the Gear Check tent on the corner of Main St. and Buchtel.

### **Relay Participant Numbers/Bibs**

Each participant in the relay will receive his or her own race bib. All five team members will have the same bib number in the 5-Person Team Relay. Additionally, relay participants will have a second bib that must be attached to the BACK of the shirt, denoting them as relay participants. You do not need to indicate which leg you are running ahead of time, your timing device will be able to tell race officials which leg you ran.

### **Slap Bracelet**

The first runner will be given a slap bracelet to be worn on the wrist. **The relay runner running the first leg must pick up a slap bracelet at the Relay Registration Area at the Expo.** If you forget or lose your bracelet there will be extra available at the Start Line Information Booth. At each Relay Exchange Zone, the incoming runner will pass the slap bracelet to his or her team member. No relay member can leave for his or her relay leg without wearing the slap bracelet. The final team member must have the slap bracelet at the Finish Line to qualify for team awards.

### **Relay Team D-Tags**

Each member of a relay team will have his or her own timing D-Tag. THERE WILL NOT BE A TRANSFER OF TAGS. As one member crosses the timing mat at the Relay Exchange Zone, the next person's D-Tag will begin keeping the time. The final relay time will be reflected with the fifth leg runner finishing the relay. Relay participants must not cross any timing mats before his or her leg. Do not cross any timing mat other than the finishing mat corresponding with your relay leg. To be a valid finisher in the team relay, participants must cross the Finish Line with the D-Tag attached to their shoe and your team slap bracelet. No D-Tag or slap bracelet will result in race disqualification without an official time.

### **Arriving at the Relay Exchange Zone**

Upon arriving at your assigned Relay Exchange Zone, proceed to the numerical staging area as instructed by a race volunteer. You must remain in the staging area until you begin your leg of the relay. Spotters will be calling out the last three numbers on your bib as your teammate approaches the Exchange Zone. PLEASE KNOW YOUR BIB NUMBER. Runners are encouraged to take their own bottled water.

### **Relay Exchange Zone Procedures**

As you approach a Relay Exchange Zone at the end of your leg, you will be directed to run over a timing mat. This will provide a split time for each relay team member. NO D-TAGS WILL BE TRANSFERRED. Be sure the next runner does not cross this mat at any time. Continue for a short distance beyond the timing mat where race volunteers will assist you in finding your teammate and exchanging your slap bracelet. With the exception of the first leg runner, the outgoing runner will NOT go over a timing mat at the start of his or her leg, but only at the completion of their leg. Upon finding your relay member, exchange the slap bracelet and clear the race course so as not to interfere with incoming runners. Once you finish your leg, you must exit the race course. If there is more than one team member on the course at a time there will be an error in your team's race results which could lead to a disqualification. If a relay team member drops out of the race the remaining team members will be able to complete the marathon relay, but the team will be officially disqualified from any prize winnings.

### **Entrance to Finisher Festival at Canal Park Stadium**

All relay runners and runners wishing to re-enter the Finisher Festival can enter the runner-only area by utilizing the Diamond Boardwalk, back concourse, located on Main Street just south of Canal Park's main entrance. Runners must present their bib to have access to this area. No spectators will be allowed in the Finisher Festival area which begins at the entrance of the Diamond Boardwalk. Please note you will not have access to the field from the Main Entrance to Canal Park, you must enter through the runner-only entrance located at the Diamond Boardwalk.

# Race Day Parking & Driving Directions

Please note that we are expecting 13,000 runners as well as thousands of volunteers and spectators making their way to downtown Akron on race morning. You should plan to be in the downtown area **NO LATER THAN 6:00 a.m.** You will encounter road closures and delays any later than 6:00 a.m.

## Color Coded Parking by Race Bib

Please practice common courtesy and follow this carefully designed parking system and park in the designated decks/lots of your event as special care has gone into matching available parking spaces by participants for each event.

The routes below offer minimal road closing interference with directional signage to suggested parking. Additional signage will be placed downtown to direct foot traffic to the starting line, relay legs 2 and 3 as well as to the relay shuttles.

## Important Addresses

See important addresses for those of you with GPS systems. Please note, once you get into downtown, road closings may detour you.

- Start Line (Marathon, Half Marathon & Relay Leg #1)
  - 217 S. High St., Akron, Ohio 44308
- Relay Shuttle Buses (Relay Legs #4 & 5)
  - 510 S. Main Street Akron, Ohio 44308
- Finish Line/Canal Park Stadium
  - 300 S. Main Street Akron, Ohio 44308

## Marathon & Half Marathon



### From the North Via I-77:

I-80 East to Rt. 8 South. Follow Rt. 8 South to Perkins St. exit. Turn right on Perkins St.; turn left on High St. Follow event parking signs for suggested by race bib color.

### From the North Via I-77 & West via I-76:

I-77/I-76 (they run concurrently briefly) to Grant/Wolf Ledges exit. Turn right (south) on Wolf Ledges, right (west) on South St. and then a right (north) on Broadway. Follow event parking signs for suggested by race bib color.

### From the North Via I-71:

I-71 to 18 East to 77 South to Grant/Wolf Ledges exit. Turn right on Wolf Ledges, right on South St. and then a right on Broadway. Follow event parking signs for suggested by race bib color.

### From the South Via I-71:

I-71 to I-76 East to Grant/Wolf Ledges exit. Turn right on Wolf Ledges, right on South St. and then a right on Broadway. Follow event parking signs for suggested by race bib color.

### From the South via I-77 & East Via I-76:

I-77/I-76 to Rt. 8 North. Exit at Perkins. Turn left on Perkins, turn left on High St. Follow event parking signs for suggested by race bib color.

## Team Relay

Carpooling is highly encouraged for relay runners! The designated Relay decks/lots are centrally located and within walking distance to the Start Line/Relay Leg #1, Relay Legs #2 & #3. Additionally it is a short walk to the Relay Shuttle Bus area for relay runners running Relay Leg #4 & #5.

### From I-77/I-76 All Directions:

#### South Campus/Exchange Deck (Recommended for Relay Legs #1 & 2):

I-77/I-76 to Grant Street/Wolf Ledges exit, travel North on Wolf Ledges, turn right onto Arc Dr., then turn right and travel east onto Exchange St. and take a quick left onto Buckeye St. Follow event parking signs for suggested parking by race bib color.

#### Opportunity Park Deck (Recommended for Relay Legs #3, 4 & 5):

I-77/I-76 to Grant/Wolf Ledges exit. Travel south on Wolf Ledges, turn right to travel west on South St. and then turn right and travel north on Broadway. Follow event parking signs for suggested parking by race bib color.

#### Main/Bartges Lot (Recommended for Relay Legs #3, 4 & 5):

I-77/I-76 to Grant/Wolf Ledges exit. Travel south on Wolf Ledges, turn right and travel west on South St., turn right and travel north on Broadway and left on Bartges. Follow event parking signs for suggested parking by race bib color.

#### Children's Hospital/Bowery Deck (Recommended for Relay Legs #2, 3 & 5):

I-77/I-76 to Grant Street/Wolf Ledges exit, travel North on Wolf Ledges, right on Arc, left on E. Exchange and right on Bowery. Follow event parking signs for suggested parking by race bib color.

#### State Street Deck (Recommended for Relay Legs #1 & 2):

I-77/I-76 to Grant Street/Wolf Ledges exit, travel North on Wolf Ledges, right on Arc, left on E. Exchange, right on Bowery, right on State. Follow event parking signs for suggested parking by race bib color.

## Delayed Exiting

Please plan for delayed exiting from parking decks along the race course.

- Exiting Broadway decks begin at 9:00 a.m.
- Exiting High Street decks begin at 10:40 a.m.