



AKRON MARATHON

RACE SERIES

MARATHON
HALF | RELAY

PRESENTED BY
FirstEnergy

Runner and Spectator Guide 2019

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 27, 2019

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 Brooks licensed apparel
- Pinning Ceremony for 5-year, 10-year and 15-year Club Members

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 28, 2019

FirstEnergy Akron Marathon,
Half Marathon & Team Relay

Race Start

Stan Hywet Hall & Gardens
714 N. Portage Path
Akron, OH 44303
(No Parking available at Start Line, please look at shuttle schedule)

- 6:00 a.m. Announcements begin
- 6:30 a.m. Opening Ceremony
- 7:29 a.m. Wheelchair Division Start
- 7:30 a.m. Marathon, Half Marathon & Team Relay Start

Finisher Festival & Awards

8:30 a.m. – 2:00 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

All runners MUST pick up their packets at the Health and Fitness Expo on Friday, September 27th. 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. 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 27th.

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

Getting to the Expo

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. At the first light turn left onto Main St. From Main St. stay right to continue onto Broadway. 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 East I-76 West

VIA I-76 Exit at Main/Broadway/Downtown. Continue straight onto Broadway. JSK Center is located at the corner of Broadway & Mill St.

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

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

From the South I-71 to 76 East

VIA I-76 Exit at Main/Broadway/Downtown. At the first light turn left onto Main St. From Main St. stay right to continue onto Broadway. 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.

Recommended parking decks:

Broadway Garage – 120 S. Broadway

Citi Center Garage – 132 S. High St.

Library Deck/ Market Garage – 40 S. High St.

***Main Street from Bowery to Exchange St. is closed Friday from 6pm – 7:30pm for the Kids Fun Run.**

Start Line

6:30 a.m. - Opening Ceremony

7:30 a.m. - Start
Stan Hywet Hall & Gardens
714 N. Portage Path

Parking/Shuttles

No parking will be available at Stan Hywet Hall & Gardens. Must have a bib to ride the shuttle. You will need to park downtown and catch the shuttles located on High St. to the start line.

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 5:30 a.m. to catch the shuttle to the start line. Shuttles will run from 5:00 a.m. until 6:30 a.m.

Runner drop-off is available at Vosello & Garman. Please take Market to Kenilworth to Greenvale to Vosello.

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. The timing device remains on your bib.

MYLAPS Timing System

All participants, including the relay, will have their timing device within their bib (B-tag). Make sure to not cut or bend your bib as this may ruin the timing device. Make sure your bib is placed securely on the FRONT of your outmost layer of clothing. For relay participants, the tags will register your time when you pass over the timing mat at the finish of your relay leg. Do not cross the Finish Line or any timing mat twice.

Start Line Corral System

To improve the race day experience for all participants corral assignments have been instituted for the race. There will be 8 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 Information Booth at the Expo and provide justification for their request. To allow all 8 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 (exception for overall winners which is based on gun time).



Gear Check

Gear check drop-off will be conveniently located at the main staging area along the East side of Stan Hywet's parking lot. Place items inside the marked boxes based on your event. Pick-up 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 Gear Check. Look for the tall flags labeled "Gear Check". Relay legs 4 and 5 will need to drop off their gear bags at the gear check tent on Main and Buchtel before heading to the relay exchange zones. 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. Items must be picked up day of race by 2:00 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.

Course Limit

The Marathon course is officially open for six and a half hours from 7:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.; equivalent to approximately 14:52 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 – course closure vehicle. The Finish Line, medical aid stations and fluid stations will remain open for a six-and-a-half-hour pace and close on schedule. Runners are responsible for knowing the course.

SAG – Course Closure Vehicle

The SAG vehicle will travel at the course closing, six and a half 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 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 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, bicycles, roller blades, strollers 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 10th. 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: 3:00, 3:05, 3:10, 3:20, 3:25, 3:30, 3:35, 3:40, 3:50, 3:55, 4:05, 4:20, 4:35, 4:50, 5:05, 5:20 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 Stan Hywet Hall & Gardens (714 N. Portage Path) at 7:30 a.m. Spectators will **NOT** be allowed to take the runner-only shuttles to the start line. Below are a few locations along the course to see your runner.

- Fairlawn Country Club at mile 5.5
- Full marathon or relay spectators who are parked downtown can come to Main and Market at mile 12.5 then head east to Broadway at mile 15.9.
- Reach Opportunity Center at Summit Lake at mile 23.1.
- Finish Line at 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 akronmarathon.org 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.

Half Marathon

The Half Marathon will start at 7:30 a.m. at Stan Hywet Hall & Gardens (714 N. Portage Path, the same time and location as the Marathon). The Half Marathon course runs the established marathon route up to the 12.6 mile mark, located at the intersection of Market and Main. Here, the Half Marathon will remain in the right lane and turn right on Main. Runners will be notified of the Half Marathon split via signage. Relay and Marathon runners will stay in the left lane and turn left on Main. Runners will be clearly directed on a closed course and have the same Olympic style finish in Canal Park Stadium as the marathon runners. The Half Marathon route will remain open for three and a half hours, equivalent to a 16:02 per mile pace.

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. 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 and capturing your finish. 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 AkronMarathon.org. 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. Ritchie's Sporting Goods is providing the service for a fee of \$10.

Merchandise

Official race merchandise featuring Brooks 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 5.25 tons of material from the landfill which equaled 89% 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 st	\$2500	\$2500	\$500	\$500
2 nd	\$1500	\$1500	\$375	\$375
3 rd	\$1000	\$1000	\$250	\$250
4 th	\$800	\$800		
5 th	\$600	\$600		

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

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

Open Women

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 st	\$750	\$750
2 nd	\$500	\$500
3 rd	\$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. Overall winners are taken out of age group awards.

Half Marathon

	Men	Women	Masters Men	Masters Women
1 st	\$1000	\$1000	\$400	\$400
2 nd	\$750	\$750	\$300	\$300
3 rd	\$500	\$500	\$200	\$200

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. Overall winners are taken out of age group awards.

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.

*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 the event in which you are registered.

*Prize money is awarded based on gun time, not chip time.

*An individual is eligible to win prize money in more than one division. (i.e. A 42-year-old woman finishes second in the open marathon competition. She would earn \$1,500 and would be eligible for the \$500 second place prize in the masters division.)

Team Relay

Relay Leg	Starting Mark	Distance in Miles	Start Location
1 st	0 Mile/Start	7.6	Start Line – 714 N. Portage Path
2 nd	7.6 Mile	6.2	Hardesty Park – 1461 Alton Dr.
3 rd	13.8 Mile	3.1	St. Thomas Hospital– 60 Olive St.
4 th	16.9 Mile	6.2	Lot 47 behind UA school of Art– 400 Wolf Ledges
5 th	23.1 Mile	3.1	Summit Lake – 390 W. Crosier Ave.

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 Opportunity Parking deck.
- Finisher fluids will be located in the parking lot of Hardesty Park.
- Gear bag drop off is located in the main parking lot at the start line. Pick up will be located on the corner of Main/Buchtel across from Canal Park Stadium.
- Walking directions back to the stadium for the Finisher Festival where you will receive your snack bag and beverages: The Finisher Festival is located at 300 S. Main Street on the field at Canal Park Stadium. Get your finisher fluids in the parking lot at Hardesty park parking lot make your way to the shuttle busses located in the parking lot. These shuttles will drop runners off at the corner of Main and Exchange. From there, walk east to Main Street and turn left. Travel 1 block 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 2

- Recommended parking location for second leg runners is the Opportunity Parking deck.
- Gear bag drop off is located at Hardesty Park. Place it in the FedEx trucks. Pick up will be located on the corner of Main/Buchtel across from Canal Park Stadium.
- Finisher fluids will be in St. Thomas Hospital Parking lot.
- Once you have completed your leg and received your finisher fluids make your way to the shuttles located in the parking lot. These shuttles will drop runners off at the corner of Main and Exchange. From there, walk east to Main Street and turn left. Travel 1 block 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 3

- Recommended parking location for third leg runners is the University of Akron parking deck on Exchange St.
- Your gear bag drop off will be located in the parking lot of St. Thomas Hospital. Pick up will be located at the corner of Main and Buchtel just outside Canal Park Stadium.
- Your finishers' fluids will be located in the parking lot at the end of your leg.
- Walking directions back to the stadium for the Finisher Festival where you will receive your snack bag, and beverages: The Finisher Festival is located at 300 S. Main Street on the field at Canal Park Stadium. Get your finisher fluids located in the Parking lot. Travel north to Arc and take arc to Exchange and turn left. Travel 3 blocks to Main and turn right. Travel 1 block 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 is The University of Akron parking deck on Exchange St.
- Your gear bag drop off will be located at the corner of Main and Buchtel just outside Canal Park Stadium.
- Walking directions from Canal Park, or parking deck, head to Exchange St. Take Exchange to Arc and head south. Exchange Zone will be to your left as you approach Wolf Ledges.
- Once you have completed your leg and received your finisher fluids make your way to the shuttles located in the parking lot. These shuttles will drop runners off at the corner of Main and Exchange. From there, walk east to Main Street and turn left. Travel 1 block 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 5

- Recommended parking location for fifth leg runners is The University of Akron parking deck on Exchange St.
- Your gear bag drop off will be in the parking lot of Summit Lake. Pick up will be located at the corner of Main and Buchtel just outside Canal Park Stadium.
- Your leg will finish inside Canal Park Stadium as you cross the finish line in the stadium. Once 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 enjoy the post-race entertainment.

Transportation to Relay Exchange Zones

The first runner should report to the Start Line at 714 N. Portage Path via shuttles. Free parking is available at designated city surface lots and parking decks downtown. Relay legs 1,2,3 & 5 will need to take the provided shuttles from downtown to the start line or exchange zones.

Walking Directions to Relay Leg 4

From Canal Park Stadium: Walk south on S. Main Street 1 block to Exchange and turn left. Take Exchange St. 3 blocks East and turn right on Arc. Take Arc and turn left on Wolf Ledges, the exchange zone will be on your left.

Relay Shuttle Service (Runners Only)

Relay legs 1, 2, 3 & 5 are encouraged to PARK DOWNTOWN EARLY and take the FREE shuttle to the Start Line and Exchange Zones. Shuttles to the start line are located on High St. and shuttles to relay legs 2,3,5 are located on Main and Exchange, 1 block 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 1, 2, and 4 back to the corner of Main and Exchange. Feel free to arrange your own transportation to or from relay legs 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5; however, we strongly encourage use of this shuttle system, as driving and parking are extremely limited in some areas.

Relay Shuttle Departure Times

Downtown Akron to start line and Relay Legs

High Street to Start line (Stan Hywet Hall & Gardens)

5:00 a.m. – 6:30 a.m.

Main/Exchange to Relay leg 2 (Hardesty Park)

7:15 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.

Main/Exchange to Relay Leg 3 (St. Thomas)

7:45 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Main/Exchange to Relay Leg 5 (Summit Lake)

8:30 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

Finish of Relay Leg back to Downtown Akron

Relay leg 1 (Hardesty Park) to Main/Exchange 8:15 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Relay leg 2 (St. Thomas) to Main/Exchange 8:45 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Relay Leg 4 (Summit Lake) to Main/Exchange 9:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

There is NO shuttle service to the start for relay leg 4 or from the finish of relay leg 3 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 /Relay Departure Schedule

Your gear bags will need to be placed in the FedEx Custom Critical trucks, located at the Exchange Zones for relay legs 2, 3 and 5 before the times listed below to be transported back to Gear Check located on the corner of Main Street and Buchtel, across from the main gates of Canal Park. Relay leg 4 can drop off and pick up their gear bags inside the Gear Check tent on the corner of Main Street and Buchtel. Place all items directly into your clear bag, no duffle bags will be collected.

- Relay Leg 2 (Hardesty Park) truck will depart at TBD
- Relay Leg 3 (St. Thomas) Truck will depart at TBD
- Relay Leg 5 (Summit lake) Trucks will depart at TBD

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 Timing

Each member of a relay team will have his or her own timing tag on the bib. THERE WILL NOT BE A TRANSFER OF BIBS. As one member crosses the timing mat at the Relay Exchange Zone, the next person's timing 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 bib attached and your team slap bracelet. No bib 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.

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 BIBS 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. Except for 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 12,000 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 5:30 a.m.** **The last shuttle bus will leave for the start line at 6:30 a.m.**

Color Coded Parking Map 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 shuttles and relay leg 4.

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)
 - 714 N. Portage Path., Akron, Ohio 44303
- Relay Leg #4
 - 400 Wolf Ledges, Akron, Ohio 44311
- Shuttle Buses (Relay Legs 2, 3 & 5)
 - 47 W. Exchange St., 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 parking by race bib color.

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

I-77/I-76 (they run concurrently) to Main/Broadway/Downtown. Stay to the left after you exit and make a left turn at the first

light onto Main St. Main St. becomes Broadway. Follow event parking signs for suggested parking by race bib color.

From the North Via I-71:

I-71 to 18 East to 77 South to Main/Broadway/Downtown exit and follow directions above.

From the South Via I-71:

I-71 to I-76 East to Main/Broadway/Downtown exit. Stay to the left after you exit and make a left turn at the first light onto Main St. Main St. becomes Broadway. Follow event parking signs for suggested parking 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 parking 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 Shuttles/Relay Leg #4.

From I-77/I-76 All Directions:

South Campus/Exchange Deck (Recommended for Relay Legs #3, #4, and #5):

I-77/I-76 to Route 8 (Exit 23B) to OH-18/Carroll St./Buchtel Ave. Continue onto Fountain St. Turn left on Carroll. Left on Spicer. Right on Exchange. Follow event parking signs for suggested parking by race bib color.

Opportunity Park Deck (Recommended for Relay Legs #1, & #2):

I-77/I-76 to Main/Broadway/Downtown. Headed east stay to the left after you exit and make a left turn at the first light onto Main St. Main St. becomes Broadway. Headed west this exit merges on to Broadway. Follow event parking signs for suggested parking by race bib color.

Exiting

Please be aware of road closures as the marathon and relay will continue to be around town until course closes at 2:00pm. Best Exit routes are High street to 76 East or West. Or Exchange street to Route 8 either North or south.