

FIRSTENERGY AKRON MARATHON, HALF MARATHON, & TEAM RELAY

September 27-28, 2024

PARTICIPANT AND SPECTATOR GUIDE

*Information not final. Final Instructions available two weeks prior to race day.

**AKRON
MARATHON**
RACE SERIES

PRESENTED BY



FirstEnergy

MARATHON
HALF | RELAY

TAKE A LOOK INSIDE

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COURSE MAPS

All maps, including course, Kid's Fun Run, start line, finish line, and finisher festival will be available after finalization of course certification.

RACE WEEKEND AT A GLANCE

FRIDAY

Health and Fitness Expo:

John S. Knight Center
77 E. Mill St, Akron
11:00 a.m. - Doors Open
8:00 p.m. - Doors Close

Kids Fun Run:

Start: Downtown Akron
Finish: Downtown Akron
6:00 p.m. - Race Start
6:45 p.m. - Course Closes
7:30 p.m. - Venue Closes

SATURDAY

FirstEnergy Akron Marathon, Half Marathon, & Team Relay:

Start: Akron Art Museum
1 S. High St, Akron
Finish: Downtown Akron
6:00 a.m. - Opening Ceremony
6:59 a.m. - Wheelchair Division Start
7:00 a.m. - Marathon, Half Marathon & Team Relay Start
1:40 p.m. - Course Closes
1:45 p.m. - Finisher Festival Closes



AKRON MARATHON HEALTH AND FITNESS EXPO PRESENTED BY THE AKRON AREA YMCA

You will receive an email/text message race week with your bib number. Please know your bib number prior to arriving.

All participants MUST pick up their packets on Friday, September 27, 2024. Participant shirts are located at the end of the Expo Hall. Each participant should pick up their own packet. There is NO packet pick up the day of the race. If you are unable to attend, race packets may be picked up by a friend or family member who must verify the participant's registration information: bib number, sex, age & emergency contact phone number.



Series Participants

Series participants will pick up their medal rack with their shirt at the Expo. You will receive your series medal at the finish line after the race.



**Location: John S. Knight Center
77 E. Mill St, Akron, OH 44308**

**Date: Friday, September 27
Time: 11:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.**

Bib Information

Make sure to pin your bib on the front of your shirt with the provided safety pins. This is crucial for accurate timing and the best race photos. And remember: take care of your bib! Any creases or cuts could ruin your timing device.

Your race number is linked to your registration data, so it MUST be yours. Participating under someone else's number could create serious consequences for participants and organizers alike. Correct information allows medical staff to identify and treat participants if necessary, and it also helps ensure accuracy in race results and awards are correct.

Kids Fun Run Presented by Akron Children's Hospital



- Kid's Fun Run Schedule
 - 5:00 p.m. Bib pickup opens
 - 6:00 p.m. Race Start/post-race activities
 - 7:30 p.m. Post-race activities close
- FREE fun run for children 12 years of age and under
- All participants receive a gift, medal & healthy snack.

Date: Friday, September 27
Start & Finish: Downtown Akron

START

Wave Start

The race will start in 6 waves. Each wave will walk up to the Start Line and have their own starting commands.

Each participant will have a designated wave based on pace submitted during registration. Wave number will be indicated on your race bib.

Corrals

Participants should begin loading into their respective corral 30 minutes before race start; race starts at 7:00 a.m. There will be wave and pace signs which indicate where to line up inside the corral.

Each participants' times begin when they pass over the Start Line timing mats. Wave placement will not affect the final race time or place in the race (except for overall winners which is based on gun time).

The timing mats are removed shortly after the final participant in wave 6 crosses the starting line. If you are not at the start line at this time, you will not have an official race time.



Location: 1 S. High St, Akron

6:00 a.m. - Opening Ceremony

6:59 a.m. - Wheelchair Division Start

7:00 a.m. - Marathon, Half Marathon & Team Relay Start

Parking

Free parking, at designated city decks and lots, is available throughout downtown on race day. It is recommended to be downtown before 6:00 a.m.

If you are a relay member coming into town after 6:50 a.m., roads will start to close along the course route. Please plan accordingly and park in the recommended decks and lots. Also, keep in mind that certain lots and decks along Broadway and High St will have delayed exiting of 10:30 a.m.

Spectators

The starting corrals are for participants only! We ask that all spectators view the start north of the Starting Line. This will reduce congestion and allow ample space for participants and spectators alike.

Medical

For any medical needs Summa Health will be at the start line near the Information Booth on the plaza at the John S. Knight Center.

Information Booths: Will be located at the Health and Fitness Expo, Start Line, and Finish Line to help with any race related questions or concerns.

COURSE

Provisions

Restrooms: Portable restrooms will be available throughout the course, including the Start and Finish Lines, fluid stations, Relay Exchange Zones, and Shuttle Loading Area. Of those restrooms, half will be designated for women and equipped with tampons.

Fluids: As you approach a fluid station, sports drink will be available first followed by water. It is recommended to carry your own fluid. There will be an area to refill bottles at the end of each fluid station. We do not recommend taking food or fluids from non-official locations.

Energy: Energy gels and chews will be provided at 3 locations along the Marathon course for full and half marathon participants only. Participants that require energy gel earlier or at different times should plan to be self-supported.

Medical: There will be medical aid stations available to participants throughout the course, Start Line, and Finish Line. Summa Health will coordinate all medical assistance during this event.

There will be NON-MEDICAL aid shuttles to transport participants, who choose not to continue the race, from the aid tents back to the Finish.

NSAID's (Non-Steroidal Anti-inflammatory Drugs such as Advil, Aleve, Ibuprofen, etc.) are not recommended the few days before the race and will NOT be provided at aid tents. NSAIDs, especially in a dehydrated participants, can adversely affect the kidneys and can increase the risk of hyponatremia (low blood sodium). Tylenol will be available.

Prohibited

For the safety of our participants, the Akron Marathon does not permit: pets, skateboards, scooters, strollers, bicycles, roller blades, baby carriers, or any other types of vehicles (other than official Marathon vehicles and bicycles) on the course. 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.

Non-registered participants are not permitted to run or walk within the boundaries of the official marathon course. Non-registered participants pacing a registered participant goes against USATF rules and could result in disqualification. 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; ensuring only registered participants are on the course.

Closure

Course Limit: The marathon course is officially open for six and a half hours after the last person crosses the Start Line; equivalent to approximately 15:00 per mile marathon pace. The half marathon route will remain open for four hours, equivalent to a 18:18 per mile pace. Participants 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.

Full marathon and relay teams need to be at the split at mile 11.3 by 10:00 a.m. to continue on to the full course.

Pace Team

Pacers will be available for many of the Boston qualifying times. Pacers will follow the Full Marathon route. Half Marathon runners can join the pace team up to the split at mile 11.3. Pace teams are led by experienced pacers who run a steady pace so the group can achieve their goal of finishing the marathon at a particular time. There is no cost to run with the pace group.

Signage

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 & 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

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

M	MARATHON
H	HALF MARATHON
R	TEAM RELAY

SPECTATORS, ACCESSIBILITY, & FINISH LINE

Spectator Information

Watch the start of the race north of the starting line. Spectators are not allowed inside the start line corrals.

Walk east one block on Market St towards Mile 3.7 (corner of Broadway St and Market St).

Walk south 3 blocks and turn left on University Ave. near mile 11.1

Walk 2 blocks west to Main St. to see participants as they approach the finish, with the Finisher Festival two blocks south on Main St.

Visit any of the Food Truck options at the Finisher Festival. Food Trucks will be available starting at 7:00 a.m. until 1:30 p.m.

Participants and spectators should choose a meeting location prior to the race, to meet up at after the race.

Accessibility Information

Guide Dogs & Service Animals

Pets are not permitted on the course or at the Finisher Festival, however, approved guide dogs and service animals are permitted.



Participants will receive water, their medal and their series medal, for series participants, after crossing the finish line. Marathon and Half Marathon participants will be given a Heatsheet to keep warm. If you are in need of medical attention there will be a medical tent available.

Family Reunion

It is encouraged to designate a reunion location and meeting time (i.e. 30 minutes after your anticipated finish time) prior to starting your race.

KultureCity: Sensory Inclusion

The Akron Marathon has teamed up with KultureCity to help those who may need additional support in the race environment. Sensory bags will be available at the Information Booth located at the Health & Fitness Expo, Start Line, & Finish Line.

Finish Line

Lost and Found

Lost items will be taken to the Information Booth located at the finish line. Items left at the race will be taken to the Akron Marathon office and kept for 2 weeks.

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). Please bring your bib and photo ID for access.

FINISHER FESTIVAL

As you enter the Finisher Festival, there will be an Information Booth, medal engraving, merchandise tent and restrooms. Redeem your drink and food tickets while enjoying the live band.

For medal engraving visit AkronMarathon.org/results to view your finish time. Ritchie's Sporting Goods is providing the service for a \$15 fee. You may pre-register, through 9/24, and pay for the service during registration or pay onsite.

Sustainability

Please support our sustainability efforts by placing the appropriate trash & recycling items in the corresponding labeled bins so there is no contamination. The bins will be clearly marked for easy placement.

Participants will receive a food ticket valid for one item at our food trucks inside the Finisher Festival. Participants may pick from a Galley Boy, Cheeseburger, or Salad Boy from Swensons, a 6 oz. Acai Smoothie Bowl from Sandy Bottom Bowls, a Chick-fil-A Original Chicken Sandwich, or an egg and cheese breakfast sandwich; additional items may be purchased. Gluten free/vegan bags can be picked up at the food tent.

Food trucks are available to participants and spectators.

Visit the food tent located in the Finisher Festival to also receive your finisher food bag and fluids.

Results and Awards

For final results and live updates visit AkronMarathon.org/results.

Prize Money

Marathon				
	Open Men	Open Women	Masters Men	Masters Women
1st Place	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$500	\$500
2nd Place	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$375	\$375
3rd Place	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$250	\$250
Ohio Resident				
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.				
	Open Men	Open Women		
1st Place	\$750	\$750		
2nd Place	\$500	\$500		
3rd Place	\$250	\$250		
Half Marathon				
	Open Men	Open Women	Masters Men	Masters Women
1st Place	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$400	\$400
2nd Place	\$750	\$750	\$300	\$300
3rd Place	\$500	\$500	\$200	\$200

Overall Awards

An award ceremony will take place at 8:50 a.m. for the Half Marathon and 10:45 a.m. for the Full Marathon.

Non-Binary Awards

Top three overall finishers, based on chip time, will receive an award. Awards will be mailed 4-6 weeks after the race.

Wheelchair Division Awards

Top finishers in each division will receive an award.

Age group, Team Relay, Non-Binary, and wheelchair awards will be mailed 6-8 weeks after the race.

Team Relay Awards

Top three teams in the Men's, Women's, Mixed, Masters Men's, Masters Women's, and Masters Mixed categories of the 5-Person Team Relay will receive awards.

Age Group Awards

Top three Male and Female Marathon and Half Marathon finishers in all age categories will receive 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 and masters winners are taken out of age group awards.



TEAM RELAY

Transportation

The provided shuttle service is highly encouraged as driving and parking are extremely limited in some areas. Relay legs 1, 2 & 3 will walk to the start of their legs in downtown. Relay legs 4 & 5 should park downtown and take the shuttle to the start of their relay leg.

Shuttle Times:

Leg 4 - Downtown to Sand Run:
7:15 a.m.-10:15 a.m.

Leg 5 - Downtown to Firestone CLC:
7:30 a.m.-11:15 a.m.

Arriving

Once you arrive at your Relay Exchange Zone take time to familiarize yourself with the corrals, visit the restrooms, and prepare for your leg of the relay. When your team member is approximately 10 minutes from the exchange zone please proceed to the numerical staging area, based on your bib number. Spotters will be calling out the last three numbers on your bib as your teammate approaches the exchange zone. PLEASE KNOW YOUR BIB NUMBER. Once your bib number is called please move to the front row of your corral to meet your teammate and start your leg of the relay. There will be limited bottled water available for participants starting at the exchange zone and for all participants finishing at each exchange zone.

Relay Exchange Zone Procedures

As you finish your leg of the relay, you will be directed to cross over a timing mat. Continue for a short distance beyond the timing mat where race volunteers will assist you in finding your teammate. Upon finding your teammate clear the racecourse. Finishing participants will receive their medal at the Relay Exchange Zone and can head to the Finisher Festival. Relay leg 5 will finish on Main St and receive their medal before entering the Finisher Festival over a timing mat. Continue for a short distance beyond the timing mat where race volunteers will assist you in finding your teammate. Upon finding your teammate clear the racecourse. Finishing participants will receive their medal at the Relay Exchange Zone and can head to the Finisher Festival. Relay leg 5 will finish on Main St and receive their medal before entering the Finisher Festival.

ARRIVAL TIMES TO RELAY LEG
(30 MINUTES BEFORE ANTICIPATED ARRIVAL)

LEG	DISTANCE	START LOCATION	7 MIN PACE	9 MIN PACE	11 MIN PACE	13 MIN PACE	15 MIN PACE
#1	4.2	1 S. High St	6:30 am	6:30 am	6:30 am	6:30 am	6:30 am
#2	6.7	250 E. Mill St	7:00 am	7:05 am	7:20 am	7:30 am	7:35 am
#3	5.8	245 Wolf Ledges Pkwy	7:45 am	8:10 am	8:30 am	8:50 am	9:15 am
#4	4.5	1300 Sand Run Pkwy	8:30 am*	9:00 am*	9:35 am*	10:10 am*	10:45 am*
#5	5	1565 Fairfax Rd	9:00 am*	9:50 am*	10:30 am*	11:15 am*	11:45 am*

*RECOMMENDED TO BOARD RELAY BUS 30 MINUTES
PRIOR TO ARRIVAL TIME FOR RELAY LEGS 4 & 5