

FIRSTENERGY AKRON MARATHON, HALF MARATHON, & TEAM RELAY

September 26-27, 2025

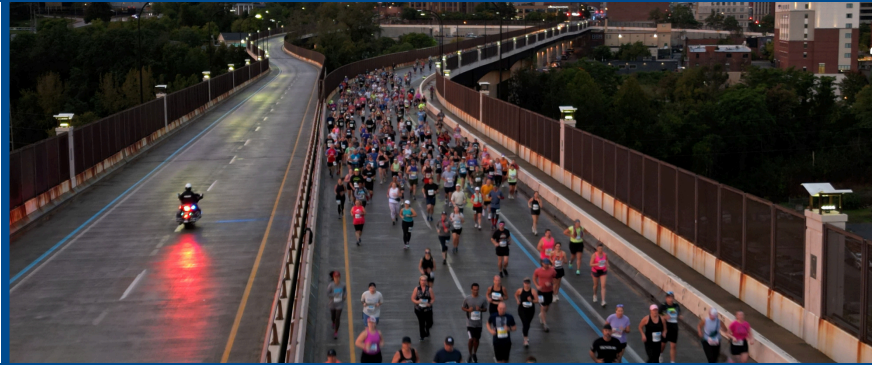
PARTICIPANT & SPECTATOR GUIDE

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



FirstEnergy®

MARATHON
HALF | RELAY



RACE WEEKEND AT A GLANCE

FRIDAY

Health & Fitness Expo presented by the Akron Area YMCA:

John S. Knight Center
77 E. Mill St, Akron

11:00 a.m. - Doors Open
8:00 p.m. - Doors Close

The Mandel Family Kids Fun Run presented by Akron Children's Hospital:

Start: Downtown Akron
Finish: Lock 3

200 S. Main St, Akron
5:00 p.m. - Bib Pick-Up Opens
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: Lock 3
200 S. Main St, Akron

6:00 a.m. - Opening Ceremony
6:59 a.m. - Wheelchair Division & Push Team Start

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

1:40 p.m. - Course Closes

1:45 p.m. - Finisher Festival Closes

TAKE A LOOK INSIDE

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RACE SERIES APP

Download the app in the [Apple](#) or [Google](#) store by searching Akron Marathon Race Series. The app features bib lookup and tracking. Be sure to enable Event Announcement notifications.



HEALTH & FITNESS EXPO

PRESENTED BY THE AKRON AREA YMCA

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

All participants MUST pick up their packets on Friday, September 26, 2025. 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 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.

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 26
Time: 11:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.**



The Mandel Family Kids Fun Run presented by Akron Children's Hospital



Date: Friday, September 26
Start: Downtown Akron
Finish: Lock 3
200 S. Main St, Akron

- Kids 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.

For additional Kids Fun Run information visit the Akron Marathon website.

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. Corrals will close 15 minutes before race start. There will be wave and pace signs which indicate where to line up inside the corral.

Each participants' time begins 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.

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.

Location: 1 S. High St, Akron

6:00 a.m. - Opening Ceremony

6:59 a.m. - Wheelchair Division & Push Team 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 will have delayed exiting.

Spectators

The starting corrals are for participants only! We ask that all spectators view the start beyond the Starting Line. This will reduce congestion and allow ample space for participants and spectators alike. For spectator viewing information, see page 5.



Information Booths will be located at the Health & 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, lemon lime Gatorade 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: GU Energy Gel and Chews will be provided at 3 locations along the Marathon course for full and half marathon participants only. In addition, pretzels & Twizzlers will be provided at the last 2 locations. Participants that require energy gel earlier or at different times should plan to be self-supported.

Medical: There will be 7 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 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, friends, and teammates 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 minutes per mile pace. The half marathon route will remain open for 3.5 hours, equivalent to a 16:00 minutes 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.

Pace Team

Pacers will be available for many of the Boston Marathon qualifying times. Pacers will follow the Full Marathon route. Half Marathon runners can join the pace team up to the split. 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	M	MARATHON
HIGH	Potentially Dangerous	Slow down Observe course changes Follow official instruction Consider stopping	H	HALF MARATHON
MODERATE	Less than ideal	Slow down Be prepared for worsening conditions	R	TEAM RELAY
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.

SPECTATORS & ACCESSIBILITY

Spectator Information

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

There will be a family reunion area at the Finish Line with bleacher seating for spectators.

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.



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.

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.

Parking Accommodations

Accessible parking for the finish line viewing area is available at the State Street Deck. For parking at the start line, accessible parking is available with a VIP pass by request.

D6 - 51 W. State St. (State Street Deck)



FINISH LINE

New Finish Line Location!

The Finish Line will be located on Main St just outside the newly renovated Lock 3.

Participants will receive water, their medal and their series medal, for race series finishers, and food bag 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 on S. Main St.

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.

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 St (1.5 miles from Canal Park). Please bring your bib and photo ID for access.



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.

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 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.

Non-Binary Awards

Top three overall finishers, based on chip time, will receive an award.

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.

FINISHER FESTIVAL

As you enter the FirstEnergy Finisher Festival at the newly renovated Lock 3, there will be an Information Booth, medal engraving, merchandise tent and indoor restrooms. Celebrate your accomplishment by enjoying the live band on the Maynard Performance Pavilion and redeeming food and drink tickets, and relaxing on the lawn with family & friends!

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 9/21, and pay for the service during registration or pay onsite.

Participants in multiple legs or events can pickup their relay and series medal at the information booth.

Drink ticket can be redeemed for two drinks- beer or soda. Beer cannot be taken outside of the Finisher Festival area.

Food truck tickets are valid for one item at one of our food trucks inside the Finisher Festival. Participants may pick one item from either of our trucks, City Barbeque, Sandy Bottom Bowls, or Swensons.

Food trucks are available to participants and spectators.

In addition, visit the Acme food tent located in the Finisher Festival to receive your sports drink, chocolate milk, extra water, and relay participants can pick up their food bag.



Sustainable Waste Stations

Please support our sustainability efforts by placing the appropriate trash & recycling items in the corresponding labeled bins at one of the waste stations in the Finisher Festival. Green team volunteers will assist in proper placement of each item.

Food Trucks

Items listed at each truck can be purchased by participants and spectators.

Credit card accepted at all trucks.

Food truck tickets are only redeemable for items marked with a *, one ticket per participant.

City Barbeque



Also accept cash

- *Chicken topped Mac & Cheese
- *Pork topped Mac & Cheese
- *Coleslaw topped Black Bean Burger

Sandy Bottom Bowls



Also accept cash & Apple Pay

*The Original (6oz): smoothie base (açai, banana, strawberry, apple juice) topped with granola, banana, drizzle of Ohio Honey (Gluten-free option available upon request)

The PB&A: smoothie base (açai, banana, strawberry, apple juice) topped with granola, creamy peanut butter, banana, strawberries, cacao nibs, drizzle of Ohio Honey

Sandy Bottom Bowl: smoothie base (açai, banana, strawberry, apple juice) topped with granola, banana, strawberries, blueberries, goji berries, drizzle of Ohio Honey

Red, White, & Blue: smoothie base (açai, banana, strawberry, apple juice) topped with granola, strawberry chunks, coconut flakes, blueberries, drizzle of Ohio Honey

Swensons

Also accept cash



- *Cheeseburger
- *Galley Boy
- *Salad Boy

Sides: Onion Rings, Teezers