

NATIONWIDE
CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL
COLUMBUS
MARATHON

INSTRUCTIONS & INFORMATION

2026



NATIONWIDE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL COLUMBUS MARATHON

46th Nationwide
Children's Hospital
Columbus Marathon

20th Nationwide
Children's Hospital
Columbus 1/2 Marathon

10.18.26



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OCTOBER 16–18, 2026



FRIDAY SATURDAY

16 & 17

NOON – 7:00 PM 9:00 AM – 6:00 PM

Greater Columbus
Convention Center
Exhibit Hall D
400 N. High Street
Columbus, OH 43215



SATURDAY

17

9:00 AM
5K & 1 Mile Start

North Bank Park
311 W. Long Street
Columbus, OH 43215



SATURDAY

17

11:00 AM Start

North Bank Park
311 W. Long Street
Columbus, OH 43215



SUNDAY

18

6:00 AM Corrals Open
7:25 AM Open Wheelchair Division Start
7:30 AM Marathon & 1/2 Marathon
Running and Walking Start

North Bank Park
311 W. Long Street
Columbus, OH 43215



FRIDAY SATURDAY

16 & 17

NOON – 7:00 PM 9:00 AM – 6:00 PM

Greater Columbus Convention Center
Exhibit Hall D
400 N. High Street
Columbus, OH 43215

Designated Expo Parking

North Surface Lot

50 East Goodale Street
Columbus, OH 43215

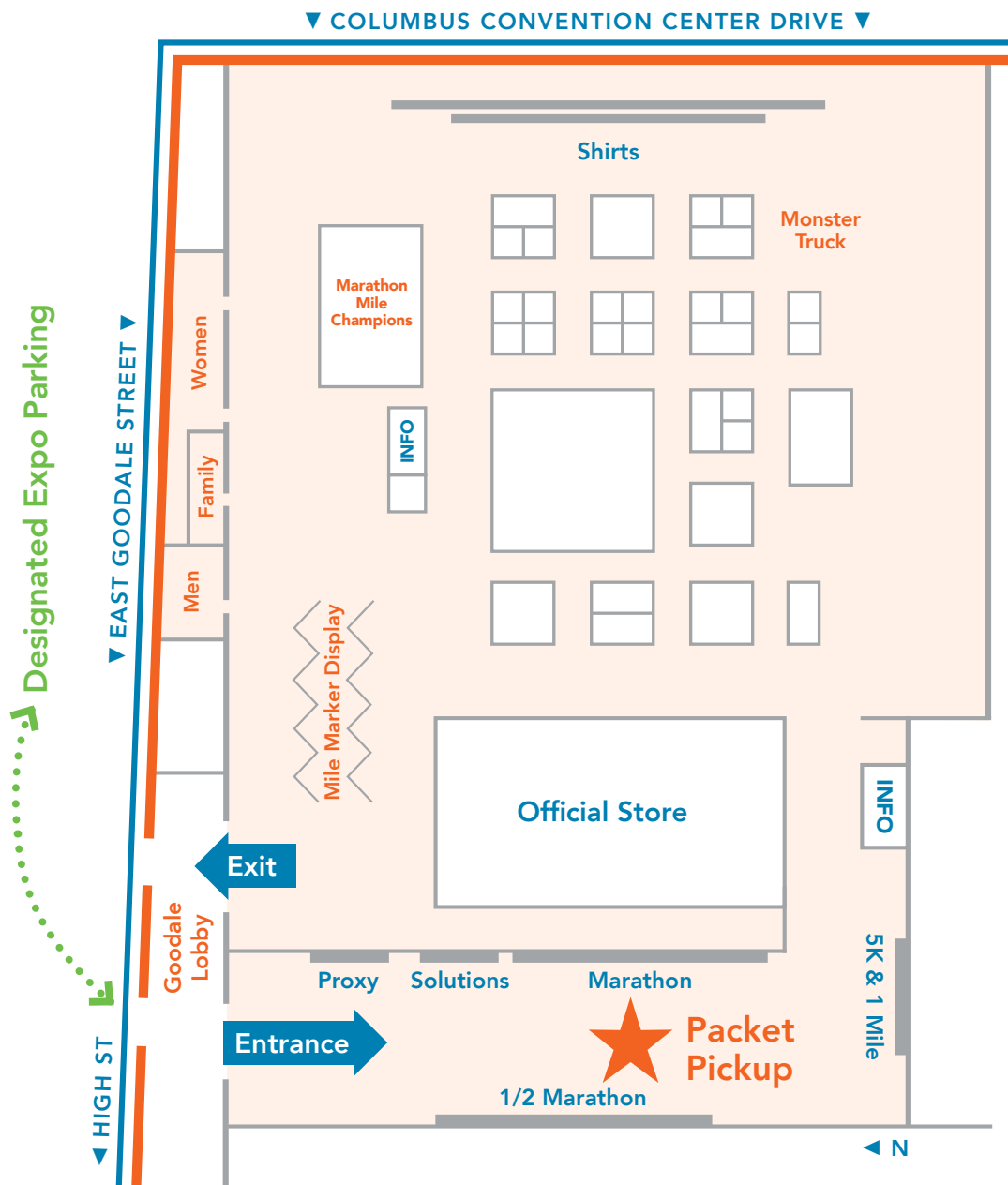
Goodale Garage

70 East Goodale Street
Columbus OH 43215

Special \$5 flat rate packet pick-up parking

(only at North Surface Lot & Goodale
Garage during packet pick up hours)





Health & FITNESS EXPO

FRIDAY SATURDAY

16 & 17

NOON – 7:00 PM

9:00 AM – 6:00 PM

(Note: Athletes will receive the race t-shirt and finisher medal corresponding to the event in which they are entered, i.e., someone registered for the full marathon will receive a marathon t-shirt and medal, even if they signed up for the full marathon but only intend to complete the 1/2 Marathon. No exceptions.)

Security Upgrades for 2026

New this year the Greater Columbus Convention Center will be employing EVOLV express detection for all visitors at the entrance to the Expo. We do not anticipate delays however, give yourself a little extra time for this new public safety feature.

Proxy Packet Pick-up

Friends or family member picking up your number for you?

If you are picking up a race packet for someone else, you will need to first visit the "Proxy Pick Up station" and show:

1. Your ID
2. The participant's ID you're picking up for (a clear photo of the ID on a phone or smart device is acceptable)
3. **Completed Proxy Form**

The form is titled "NATIONWIDE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL COLUMBUS MARATHON" and "PROXY PACKET PICKUP". It contains the following fields and checkboxes:

- RUNNER'S NAME _____
- YOUR NAME _____
- YOUR PHONE # _____
- ☐ Copy of Runner ID Present ☐ PROXY ID Checked ☐ CR
- APPROVED _____

- If any of the information is missing on the form, it will not be approved; and
- **No person may pick up more than two (2) race numbers in addition to their own.**

Whenever possible, participants should attend the Expo in person and pick up their own bibs. We recognize that personal and professional emergencies may arise, and proxy is intended as a stopgap for those circumstances that conflict with attending the Expo. Using proxy pickup as a method in which to use another participant's race number is strictly prohibited and may result in disqualification from all future events.

While the process will remain the same as in prior years, you may experience increased scrutiny on proxy pickups this year. And a reminder: While we allow "proxy" pickup as a service for our runners, only the registered runner may run the race with the bib.

Parking & Race Day Traffic Solutions

There are more than 15,000 parking spaces in the Arena District, close to the combined Start & Finish Line. Alleviate some stress on Race Day by purchasing your **[parking pass in advance online here.](#)**

Get downtown early on race day

Make plans PRIOR to race day to get downtown and into your parking spot well before the Race starts at 7:30 AM. How early? **The Corrals open at 6 AM, so plan accordingly!**



Here are some tips:

- Think of how long it takes to get into downtown Columbus from your home or where you are staying. Got that number? Now double it! With thousands of people making their way to the Start Line at the same time, you'll need extra time to get where you want to be.
- We recommend carpooling. It cuts down on traffic and parking problems for all and will save you money!
- Consider renting a Veo scooter or bike (download the app to find one near you!), taxis or Uber and Lyft for an alternative to driving downtown.
- Make sure you know about any road closings/ construction that may get in your way of being in your corral early. Check out **[OhGO.com](#)** for the latest road construction information, including weekend work.

If you review the above items thoroughly and make your plan a few days ahead of time, you should enjoy an easy, unhurried, unstressed start to your big day. Again, the start line corrals open at 6 AM.

Parking & Race Day Traffic Solutions

Note street closures at the START/FINISH when planning how to access parking:

- Long St. will be closed between High St. to the East and Hocking St. to the West.
- Spring St. will be closed from West St. to the East, and Hocking St. to the West.
- Neil Ave. will be closed from Nationwide Blvd. on the North to the combined Start/Finish Line to the South. (Limited access allowed to parking garages just south of Nationwide Blvd.—signage will be posted.)

Directions to parking from the north:

I-71 SOUTH TO I-670 WEST

EXIT AT THIRD ST. (ON THE LEFT)

Take Third St. to Chestnut St.

Right onto Chestnut St.

Choose a parking garage on Chestnut St.

(Alternately with this route)

Continue on Chestnut St. to High St.

Right onto High Street

Take High St. to Nationwide Blvd.

Left onto Nationwide Blvd.

Proceed on Nationwide Blvd. to available parking throughout the Arena District.

OR

I-71 SOUTH TO I-670 WEST

EXIT AT NEIL AVE.

Left onto Neil Ave.

Proceed on Neil Ave. to available parking throughout the Arena District.

OR

ST. RT. 315 SOUTH TO I-670 EAST

EXIT AT NEIL AVE.

Right onto Neil Ave.

Proceed on Neil Ave. to available parking throughout the Arena District.

Directions to parking from the south:

I-71 NORTH (DO NOT MERGE onto ST. RT. 315 NORTH)

EXIT AT FOURTH ST.

Left onto Fourth St.

Fourth St. to Nationwide Blvd.

Left onto Nationwide Blvd.

Proceed on Nationwide Blvd. to available parking throughout the Arena District.



Parking & Race Day Traffic Solutions

Directions to parking from the east:

I-70 WEST TO MOUND ST.

Right onto Fourth St.

Fourth St. to Nationwide Blvd.

Left onto Nationwide Blvd.

Proceed on Nationwide Blvd. to available parking throughout the Arena District.

OR

I-670 WEST

EXIT AT NEIL AVE.

Right onto Neil Ave.

Proceed on Neil Ave. to available parking throughout the Arena District.

Directions to parking from the west:

I-70 EAST TO I-670 EAST

I-670 EAST TO GRANDVIEW AVE.

Right onto Grandview Ave.

Grandview Ave. to Goodale St.

Right onto Goodale St.

Goodale St. to Neil Ave.

Right onto Neil Ave. to available parking in Arena District.

OR

I-70 EAST TO EXIT FOR FOURTH ST.

Turn left onto Fourth St.

Fourth St. to Nationwide Blvd.

Left onto Nationwide Blvd.

Proceed on Nationwide Blvd. to available parking throughout the Arena District.

OR

I-670 EAST TO NEIL AVE.

Right onto Neil Ave.

Proceed on Neil Ave. to available parking throughout the Arena District.

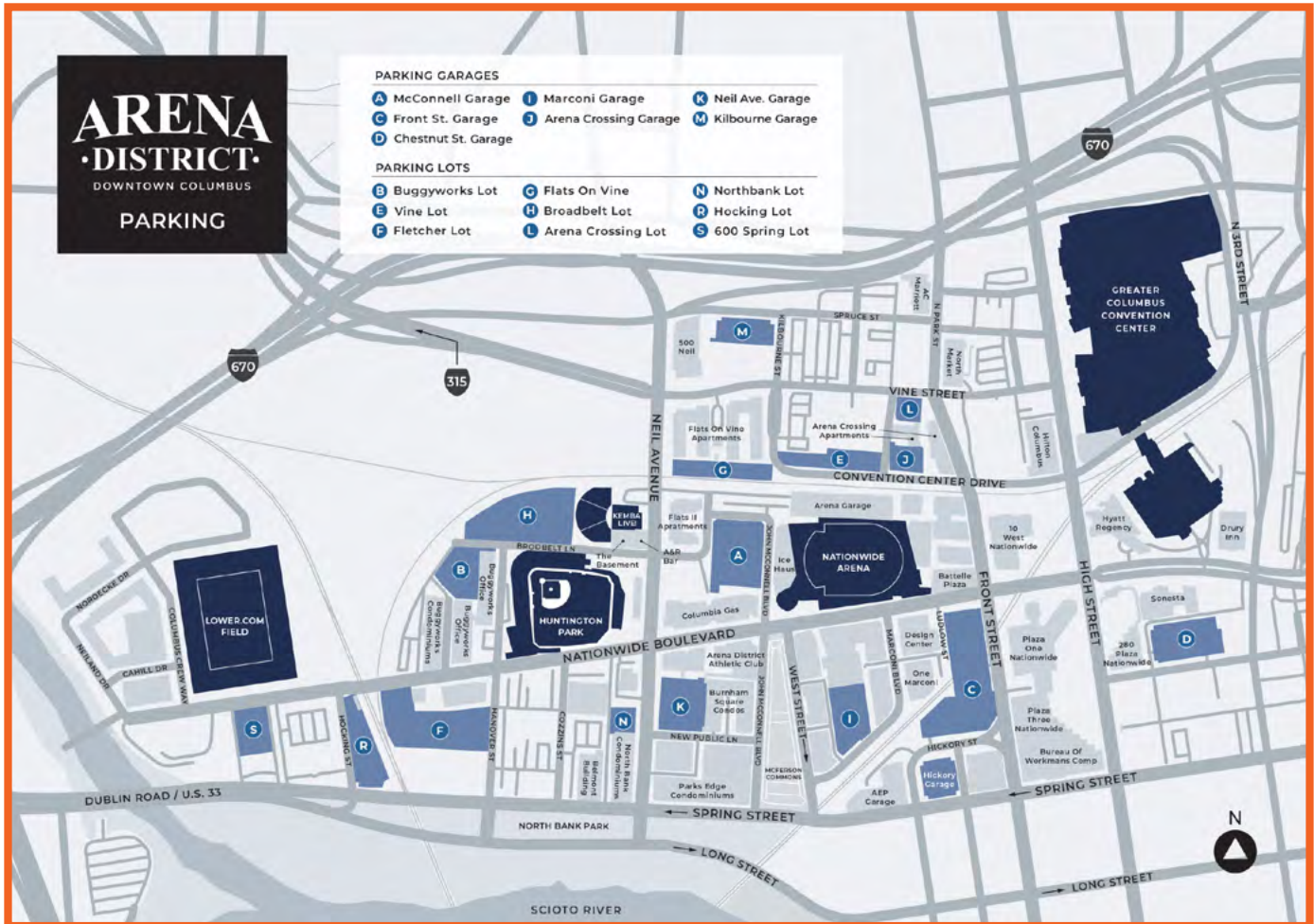
Purchase Parking Ahead of Time

[Click here in order to purchase your Race Day parking pass](#) in the Arena District ahead of time.

NOTE: your pre-paid pass is only valid at the location in which it is purchased for.

We highly recommend making plans PRIOR to race day to get downtown and into your parking spot well before the Race starts at 7:30 AM. How early? The Corrals open at 6:00 AM, so plan accordingly!

Arena District Parking Map



arenadistrict.parkmobile.io

Marathon Course Map



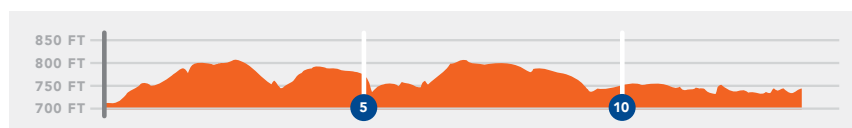
1/2 Marathon Course Map



NATIONWIDE
CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL
COLUMBUS
MARATHON

10.18.2026
COURSE MAP

13.1



Pace Chart

	Mile	Estimated 1st WHEELCHAIR		Estimated 1st RUNNER		Median RUNNER PACE		Course CLOSING TIME			
								1/2 Marathon		Full Marathon	
Marathon & 1/2 Marathon	Start	7:26 AM		7:30 AM		Approx: 7:45 AM		Approx: 8:00 AM		Approx: 8:00 AM	
	1	0:03:50	7:29 AM	0:04:45	7:34 AM	0:09:10	7:54 AM	0:16:00	8:16 AM		
	2	0:07:40	7:33 AM	0:09:30	7:39 AM	0:18:20	8:03 AM	0:32:00	8:32 AM		
	3	0:11:30	7:37 AM	0:14:15	7:44 AM	0:27:30	8:12 AM	0:48:00	8:48 AM		
	4	0:15:20	7:41 AM	0:19:00	7:49 AM	0:36:40	8:21 AM	1:04:00	9:04 AM		
	5	0:19:10	7:45 AM	0:23:45	7:53 AM	0:45:50	8:30 AM	1:20:00	9:20 AM		
	6	0:23:00	7:49 AM	0:28:30	7:58 AM	0:55:00	8:40 AM	1:36:00	9:36 AM		
	7	0:26:50	7:52 AM	0:33:15	8:03 AM	1:04:10	8:49 AM	1:52:00	9:52 AM		
	8	0:30:40	7:56 AM	0:38:00	8:08 AM	1:13:20	8:58 AM	2:08:00	10:08 AM		
	9	0:34:30	8:00 AM	0:42:45	8:12 AM	1:22:30	9:07 AM	2:24:00	10:24 AM		
	10	0:38:20	8:04 AM	0:47:30	8:17 AM	1:31:40	9:16 AM	2:40:00	10:40 AM		
	11	0:42:10	8:08 AM	0:52:15	8:22 AM	1:40:50	9:25 AM	2:56:00	10:56 AM		
	12	0:46:00	8:12 AM	0:57:00	8:27 AM	1:50:00	9:35 AM	3:12:00	11:12 AM		
	LONG ST & HIGH 12.5	0:47:55	8:13 AM	0:59:23	8:29 AM	1:54:35	9:39 AM	3:20:00	11:20 AM	3:06:05	11:06 AM**
	13	0:49:50	8:15 AM	1:01:45	8:31 AM	1:59:10	9:44 AM	3:28:00	11:28 AM	3:13:31	11:13 AM
	1/2 MARATHON 13.1	0:50:13	8:16 AM	1:02:14	8:32 AM	2:00:05	9:45 AM	3:29:36	11:30 AM	3:15:00	11:15 AM
	14	0:53:40	8:19 AM	1:13:30	8:43 AM	2:08:20	9:53 AM			3:28:24	11:28 AM
	15	0:57:30	8:23 AM	1:18:45	8:48 AM	2:17:30	10:02 AM			3:42:17	11:43 AM
	16	1:01:20	8:27 AM	1:24:00	8:54 AM	2:26:40	10:11 AM			3:58:10	11:58 AM
	17	1:05:10	8:31 AM	1:29:15	8:59 AM	2:35:50	10:20 AM			4:13:03	12:13 PM
	18	1:09:00	8:35 AM	1:34:30	9:04 AM	2:45:00	10:30 AM			4:27:56	12:28 PM
	19	1:12:50	8:38 AM	1:39:45	9:09 AM	2:54:10	10:39 AM			4:42:49	12:43 PM
	20	1:16:40	8:42 AM	1:45:00	9:15 AM	3:03:20	10:48 AM			4:57:42	12:58 PM
	21	1:20:30	8:46 AM	1:50:15	9:20 AM	3:12:30	10:57 AM			5:12:35	1:12 PM
	22	1:24:20	8:50 AM	1:55:30	9:25 AM	3:21:40	11:06 AM			5:27:28	1:27 PM
	23	1:28:10	8:54 AM	2:00:45	9:30 AM	3:30:50	11:15 AM			5:42:21	1:42 PM
	24	1:32:00	8:58 AM	2:06:00	9:36 AM	3:40:00	11:25 AM			5:57:14	1:57 PM
	25	1:35:50	9:01 AM	2:11:15	9:41 AM	3:49:10	11:34 AM			6:12:07	2:12 PM
	26	1:39:40	9:05 AM	2:16:30	9:46 AM	3:58:20	11:43 AM			6:27:00	2:27 PM
	FINISH LINE 26.2	1:40:26	9:06 AM	2:17:33	9:47 AM	4:00:10	11:45 AM			6:30:00	2:30 PM

** Denotes course cut-off point. Marathon runners/walkers that do not make it to the corner of Long Street and High Street by the closure time noted will be diverted directly to the finish line to complete a 1/2 marathon.

Restrooms

Everyone has to go to the bathroom, and on race day, everyone has to go at the same time. We will have more than 500 portable bathrooms available at our Start Line as well as along our Course.

- In the “Athlete-Only” Start Area, there will be portable bathrooms in ALL Starting Corrals!
- Portable bathrooms also are located just past every fluid station on the course. See course maps for both races on pages 9 and 10.
- For those who don’t want to wait as long, Children’s Champions will have special access to restrooms at the START. Or should we say a “VIPee” trailer, complete with running water! **[Click here to register to become a Children’s Champion.](#)**

Lactation / Baby Changing Station

This tent will provide a space for athletes and spectators who need to change their babies and breastfeed or pump. The tent will be located by the Dick’s Sporting Goods Gear Check Tent at the south end of McFerson Commons on Spring Street on Race Day!

LACTATION



BABY CHANGING



**BABY
CHANGING
STATION**



**NURSING
MOTHERS
ONLY**

Corrals

Athletes will need to enter at the “Athlete Only” signs at the intersection of Neil and Spring Streets and make their way to their corral. There will be four corrals. If your estimated finishing time has drastically changed since you registered, please visit the CORRAL SOLUTIONS booth at the Expo.

Timing Device

The Columbus Marathon will be using the BibTag timing device. The BibTag is an all-weather tag that will be placed on the back of your bib to record your time. **You MUST wear your bib on the outside of your clothing in order for the BibTag to work correctly. Do NOT fold or bend your bib.**

Pace Teams

We are thrilled to welcome back the Striding Sliders Pace Team, sponsored by White Castle! **Pace teams will be offered for the following finish times:**



½ Marathon: 1:30, 1:35, 1:40, 1:45, 1:50, 1:55, 2:00, 2:15, 2:30, 2:45, and 3:00

Marathon: 3:00, 3:10, 3:20, 3:30, 3:40, 3:50, 4:00, 4:15, 4:30, 4:45, 5:00, and 5:30

Pace team leaders will be lined up by 7:00 AM on the right side of the street facing the starting line, holding signs with their finish times and blue and gold balloons. Questions? **Visit the Striding Sliders Pace Team booth at the Expo!**



You may always move BACK corrals to run or walk with someone important to you. For safety purposes, you may not move UP corrals.

RTRT.me Mobile App

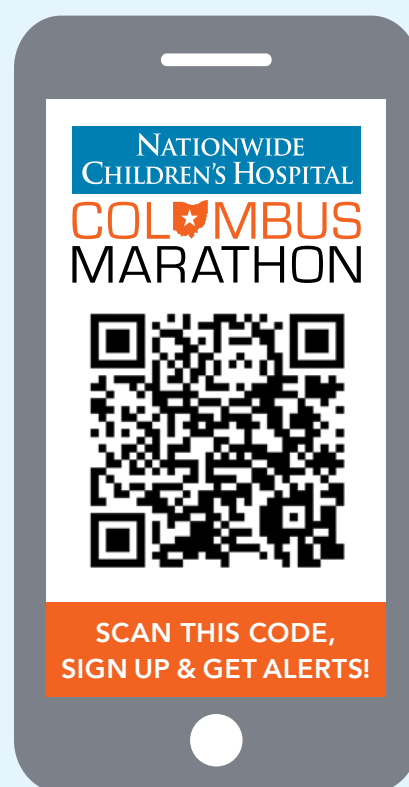
Live results are now available via web for free!

Download the RTRT.me Mobile App and select the 2026 Columbus Marathon event. Participants, family and friends can all use Real-Time Race Tracking to share in the excitement.

Sign up now to have race progress texted to your mobile phone. On Race Day, spectators can get status of participants in real-time using the Live Tracker & Leaderboard. Details such as time, pace, position on the map and estimated finish will be instantly available. **The information will be based on six checkpoints along the course — Start, 5K, 15K, 13.1 miles, 20 miles and Finish.**

RTRT.me live results features include:

- **Live Web Tracker** – See times and current pace within seconds of a participant crossing each split point. Estimated times will be provided based on current pace.
- **Live Leaderboard** – See who is winning via the Live Leaderboard. Top runners in each category will be displayed in real-time as they lead the way through the course.
- **Live Map Tracking** – Participant locations will be plotted on the Interactive Course Map as progress is made on course. The position of each participant is estimated based on the most recent timing received from the bib read. NOTE: Participants do not need to carry their phones for this feature to work.
- **Split Alerts** – Track your athlete via the RTRT.me mobile app's push messages at various points along the Marathon and 1/2 Marathon courses.
- **Mobile App** – Features include Live Participant Tracking, Push Notifications, Leaderboards, Map Tracking, Event Messages, Event Info and more!



**PLEASE NOTE: Times posted during the event are Unofficial. Official results are posted upon completion of the event.*

Gear Bags

Start line gear bag rules will be strictly enforced.

In our Start Area, and specifically at the Dick's Sporting Goods Gear Check Tent, we enforce rules to create as safe an environment as possible. Gear Check will be available for free at the south end of McFerson Park, at the intersection of Spring St. and McConnell Blvd.

We will ONLY accept the CLEAR Gear Check Bags you receive at the Health & Fitness Expo during your packet pick-up. ALL items you wish to check must be in these bags. We will NOT accept any other bags, boxes, luggage, etc. NO EXCEPTIONS.

NOTE: All items being carried at or near the Nationwide Children's Hospital Columbus Marathon & ½ Marathon are subject to inspection, including Camelbaks and personal hydration devices.



Fluid Stations



There are 17 Fluid Stations along the course, supplying Gatorade Lemon Lime Endurance Formula® at the first set of tables and non-carbonated water at the second set of tables. Additionally, you may wear a small hydration pack, fanny pack or fluid belt or carry a water bottle, but this may be subject to inspection as noted above.

NO BACKPACKS are to be worn by athletes on the race course.



We will also feature GU Energy Gels at approximately miles **15.5 & 20.7**.

Medical Support



Certified medical personnel are located in the Start/Finish areas and at two locations along the race course to assist athletes. **PLEASE FILL OUT THE MEDICAL INFORMATION on the back of your race number.**

Every second counts in an emergency, and this information could be crucial! In the event an athlete is unable to continue, report to one of these locations or the nearest water stop for assistance. Red Cross sweep vehicles will pick up disabled athletes for transport to the Finish Line. The medical staff has the right to withdraw any athletes from the race who appear in distress or at risk. Minor medical aid (i.e. band-aids or Vaseline) can be found at each fluid station.

Race Bib

- Pin your race number on the front of your shirt (don't cover with other clothing). Do not fold, bend, or tear your number in any way.
- Wheelchair participants: Pin your race number on the back of your shirt.

Athlete Only Area

Only athletes with bib numbers will be allowed into the athlete-only area and the start line corrals and finish chute. The athlete-only area is the area west of Neil Avenue (Spring and Long Streets west of Neil Avenue). Spectators will be allowed east of Neil Avenue in Celebration Village and at the grassy area at the Start Line.

For Your Entertainment

2026 Nationwide Children's Hospital Columbus Marathon will feature thousands of participants — which means there will be tens of thousands of spectators throughout the 26.2-mile course. This year, there will be live bands, entertainers and DJs lining the course to keep the party going.

MILE MARKER	BAND / DJ NAME	MILE MARKER	BAND / DJ NAME
Start/ Finish	DJ Matty Sexton	13.1	Mothman
1.5	Trachette	15	Blues Therapy
1.6	SnagaDj.com	15.3	DJ Ski
2	cJazzic Soul Band	15.5	Craig Watkins
2.8	DJ Blaque	16	Eric Chin
3	River 104.9	17.2	Juan Leon
3.2	Sam Corlett	17.6	Flugazy
3.7	LoudMouf	18	Columbus Folk Music Music Society
4	Prophocey	18.2	DJ BLCKUNICORN
5.1	DJ Lil Man	19	Honest Abe and the Wellingtons
5.2	Brian Bainbridge	19.6	Intermittent Animals
5.8	Jake Blevins	20.5	Tim O'Connor
6.2	Discarded Mischief	21.4	The Bughounds
7.4	For Pete's Sake	21.6	Bryan Olsheski
8.6	Nachos	23	DJ RUN 3 RAY
11.4	Radio U	23.5	DJ Industrial Badger
11.7	Jason Turpening	24.6	Tim Owings
11.9	Brian Yinger	24.6	the housebat
12.3	100 Proof	25	Aye Dizzle
12.9	DJ Pish		

ANNOUNCERS

A1 Michael Kelly

A2 Karl Gruber

A3 Amy Liss

Race Rules

Violation of any of these rules may result in disqualification.

There are no exceptions to the rules:

- Everything needed for a successful race is available from official marathon fluid or medical stations. If you need something specific, you should carry it with you.
- Non-registered runners may not run any part of the course. Course monitors and police have authority to remove unregistered runners from the course. **This includes children running in with parents at the finish.** Anyone who does this risks disqualification and a ban from future events.
- The only wheeled vehicles permitted on the course are official wheelchair entrants, official pace vehicles, official bicycle spotters and approved wheeled devices. No baby strollers, dogs, in-line skates or scooters allowed.
- Full marathon participants who are not maintaining a 14:54-minute mile pace and who don't make it to High & Long St. by 11:06 AM will be urged to head to the finish line where they will be credited with an official 1/2 marathon finishing time and will receive other race participant benefits, including finish line food. If an athlete chooses to continue following along the marathon course, they will do so at their own risk. The water stops, entertainment areas, portable bathrooms, medical support, and Police and Fire/EMS services will all be shut down. Also, the Finish Line will be closed at 2:30 p.m. in keeping with our stated 6 1/2 hour course closure rule, so if anyone arrives after that time, they will not receive an official time for completing the race.

Athletes will receive the finisher's medal corresponding to the type of bib they are wearing, i.e., someone wearing a full marathon bib will receive a full marathon medal, even if they only complete the 1/2 Marathon.

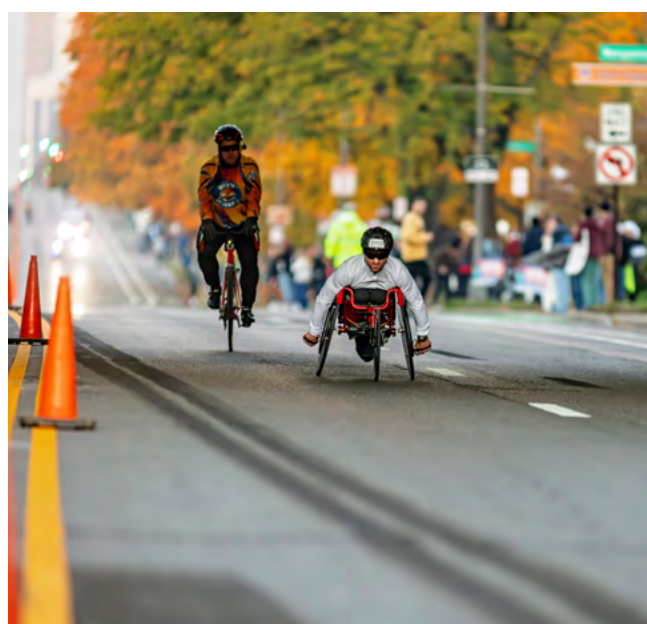


Wheelchair Athletes

All wheelchair athletes should check in Race Morning at the Wheelchair Athlete Tent at the corner of Spring and West Streets. Athletes will drop off their gear check bags there. Prior to the start of the race, the wheelchair athletes will be escorted to the Start Line.

The wheelchair division starts at 7:25 AM.

Please note: Due to safety concerns, handcycles are not permitted in the Nationwide Children's Hospital Columbus Marathon & 1/2 Marathon.



Children's Champions

Children's Champions are Columbus Marathon & 1/2 Marathon participants who choose to run, walk or cheer the marathon or 1/2 marathon while fundraising for Nationwide Children's Hospital. There is no minimum fundraising requirement, but Children's Champions have the opportunity to earn a variety of benefits, based on the amount they raise for the hospital.

Children's Champions get to run through the course knowing that they are helping all of the Marathon Mile Champions that line the streets. They help Nationwide Children's to provide the highest quality care to every child, regardless of a family's ability to pay. **You can still sign up here.** You may register as an individual, create a team or join an existing team, plus help recruit additional Children's Champions and raise money for the hospital. Do what you can for Kids, Cures & Miracles.



Nationwide Children's Hospital 2026 Marathon Mile Champions

You can read more about these incredible Marathon Mile Champions' stories here.

MILE 1 Nationwide Children's Hospital COLUMBUS MARATHON   MARATHON MILE CHAMPION ZOE Sponsored by 	MILE 2 Nationwide Children's Hospital COLUMBUS MARATHON   MARATHON MILE CHAMPION NATALIE Sponsored by 	MILE 3 Nationwide Children's Hospital COLUMBUS MARATHON   MARATHON MILE CHAMPION AVERY Sponsored by 	MILE 4 Nationwide Children's Hospital COLUMBUS MARATHON   MARATHON MILE CHAMPION WINNIE Sponsored by 	MILE 5 Nationwide Children's Hospital COLUMBUS MARATHON   MARATHON MILE CHAMPION FINN Sponsored by 	MILE 6 Nationwide Children's Hospital COLUMBUS MARATHON   MARATHON MILE CHAMPION KADEN Sponsored by 	MILE 7 Nationwide Children's Hospital COLUMBUS MARATHON   MARATHON MILE CHAMPION GRAYSEN Sponsored by 
MILE 8 Nationwide Children's Hospital COLUMBUS MARATHON   MARATHON MILE CHAMPION WIL Sponsored by 	MILE 9 Nationwide Children's Hospital COLUMBUS MARATHON   MARATHON MILE CHAMPION PARKER Sponsored by 	MILE 10 Nationwide Children's Hospital COLUMBUS MARATHON   Celebrating Our 2012-2025 Marathon Mile Champions ENCORE MILE Sponsored by 	MILE 11 Nationwide Children's Hospital COLUMBUS MARATHON   Honor. Remember. Celebrate. REMEMBRANCE MILE Sponsored by 	MILE 12 Nationwide Children's Hospital COLUMBUS MARATHON   MARATHON MILE CHAMPION CHASE Sponsored by 	MILE 13 Nationwide Children's Hospital COLUMBUS MARATHON   MARATHON MILE CHAMPION BRAYLEE Sponsored by 	

Nationwide Children's Hospital 2026 Marathon Mile Champions

You can read more about these incredible Marathon Mile Champions' stories here.

MILE 14 Nationwide Children's Hospital COLUMBUS MARATHON   MARATHON MILE CHAMPION NORA NATIONWIDE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL COLUMBUS MARATHON	MILE 15 Nationwide Children's Hospital COLUMBUS MARATHON   MARATHON MILE CHAMPION SAVANNAH NATIONWIDE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL COLUMBUS MARATHON	MILE 16 Nationwide Children's Hospital COLUMBUS MARATHON   MARATHON MILE CHAMPION MARINN NATIONWIDE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL COLUMBUS MARATHON	MILE 17 Nationwide Children's Hospital COLUMBUS MARATHON   MARATHON MILE CHAMPION QUENTIN NATIONWIDE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL COLUMBUS MARATHON	MILE 18 Nationwide Children's Hospital COLUMBUS MARATHON   MARATHON MILE CHAMPION NOAH NATIONWIDE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL COLUMBUS MARATHON	MILE 19 Nationwide Children's Hospital COLUMBUS MARATHON   MARATHON MILE CHAMPION BRYNN Sponsored by 	MILE 20 Nationwide Children's Hospital COLUMBUS MARATHON   MARATHON MILE CHAMPION DONNY Sponsored by 
MILE 21 Nationwide Children's Hospital COLUMBUS MARATHON   MARATHON MILE CHAMPION MADDIE NATIONWIDE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL COLUMBUS MARATHON	MILE 22 Nationwide Children's Hospital COLUMBUS MARATHON   MARATHON MILE CHAMPION HAYDEN NATIONWIDE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL COLUMBUS MARATHON	MILE 23 Nationwide Children's Hospital COLUMBUS MARATHON   MARATHON MILE CHAMPION PARKER NATIONWIDE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL COLUMBUS MARATHON	MILE 24 Nationwide Children's Hospital COLUMBUS MARATHON   MARATHON MILE CHAMPION KENADEE NATIONWIDE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL COLUMBUS MARATHON	MILE 25 Nationwide Children's Hospital COLUMBUS MARATHON   MARATHON MILE CHAMPION MICHAELA NATIONWIDE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL COLUMBUS MARATHON	MILE 26 Nationwide Children's Hospital COLUMBUS MARATHON   MARATHON MILE CHAMPION LUCA Sponsored by 	

The Nationwide Children's Hospital Columbus Marathon & 1/2 Marathon puts the safety of its participants, spectators, staff and volunteers first. Dangerous weather conditions pose a unique challenge to an event this size. Therefore, we have adopted the following:

Inclement Weather Policy

Weather forecasts will be monitored prior to the event, with special attention placed on the possibility of heavy rain, thunder and lightning, high winds and extreme temperatures. If necessary, athletes will be made aware of these conditions and possible dangers which could result on the Nationwide Children's Hospital Columbus Marathon website (www.columbusmarathon.com), as well as by other means of communications such as e-mail, Facebook, Instagram and the Real-Time Race Tracking app and public address announcements.

The Race Director and Medical Director, in consultation with law enforcement, fire/EMS and other officials, will monitor the weather and make a decision if any action will be taken to modify the race. Possible changes include: Altering the start time or in extreme situations, cancellation of the event. Visible lightning will cause the race to be postponed for a minimum of 30 minutes. Additional sightings will continue to delay the race in 30-minute increments.

If extremely high heat and humidity is predicted, extra water will be provided to the athletes, both prior to, during and after the event. The medical team will be alerted that athletes may require additional medical attention during and after the event due to these conditions. If it is felt that it is unsafe for participants to start the race due to severe temperatures and humidity, the race may be canceled.

Race personnel reserve the right to delay, cancel, or suspend the race due to inclement weather. Participants must abandon the race if ordered to do so by the race personnel, medical staff, fire or police personnel.



Stay safe!

As in past years, you should also sign up Race Week for **RTRT.me Mobile App** and enable alerts to be directly notified of changes in course conditions and emergency actions.

EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN

FOR ATHLETES & SPECTATORS

DANGEROUS WEATHER CONDITIONS & ON-COURSE EMERGENCIES pose a unique challenge to an event the size of a Marathon or 1/2 Marathon.

#1

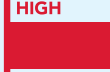
SAFETY IS

The Nationwide Children's Hospital Columbus Marathon & 1/2 Marathon puts the safety of its participants, spectators, staff and volunteers first.

KNOW THE COURSE

ALERT LEVELS

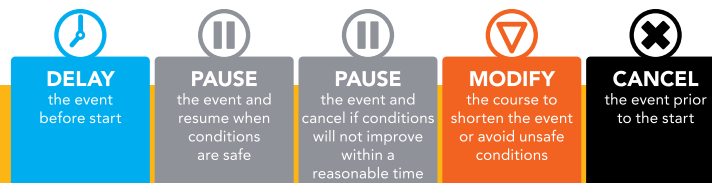
THE FLAG SYSTEM at each aid station will advise you of course conditions ahead.

LOW	MODERATE	HIGH	EXTREME
			
Good	Less than ideal	Potentially dangerous	Event cancelled/ extreme & dangerous
Enjoy the event! Be alert.	Slow down. Be prepared for worsening conditions.	Slow down. Observe course changes. Follow official instructions. Consider stopping.	Participation stopped. Follow event official instructions.

KNOW THE POSSIBLE

RESPONSES

ONE OF FIVE possible options in response to unsafe conditions on the course will be determined by race officials, in consultation with law enforcement, fire/EMS and other officials and communicated promptly with athletes, spectators and volunteers.

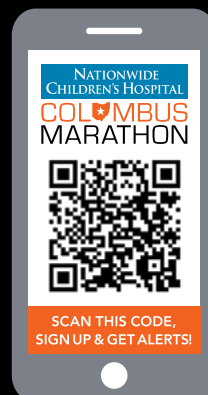


SEEK SHELTER



In the event of dangerous weather, adverse conditions or race cancellation, please seek shelter immediately.

All Police and Fire Personnel, as well as Water Stop and Course officials, can direct you to the nearest shelter and emergency transportation pick-up zones.



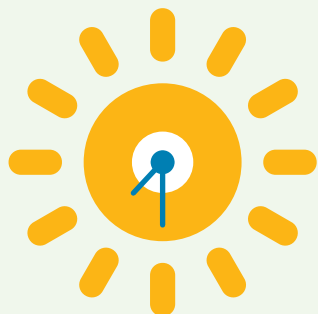
STAY INFORMED

Sign up for RT/RT.me Mobile App to receive special messaging in case of any weather or safety concerns.

NATIONWIDE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL
COLUMBUS MARATHON

Marshall McPeek's Weather History

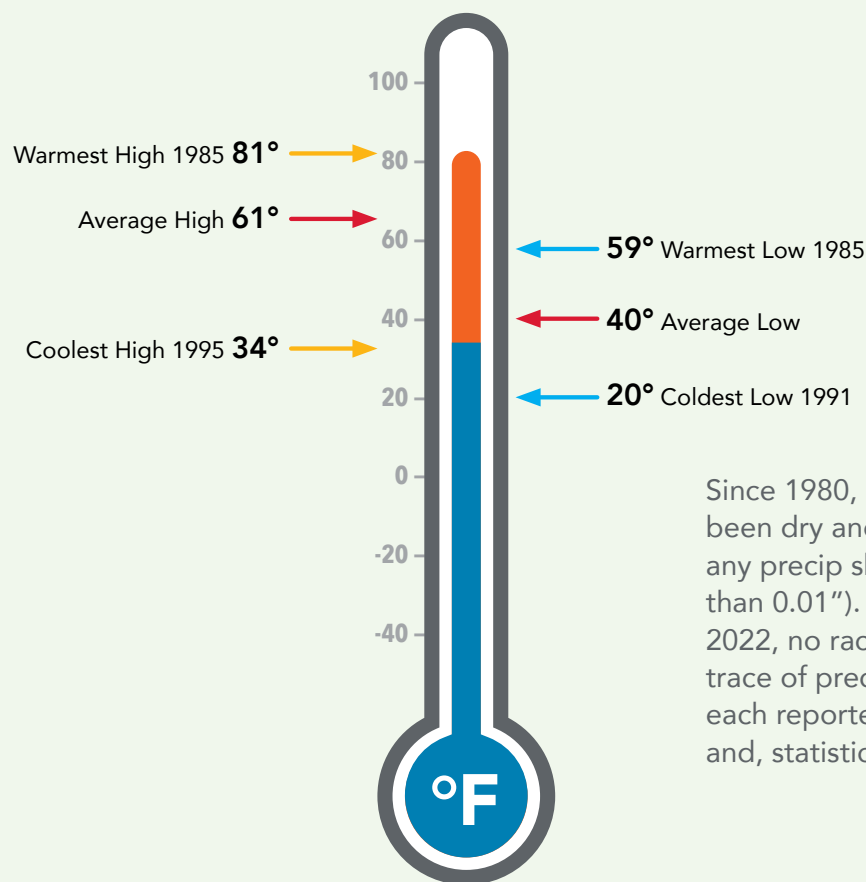
ABC6/Fox28 Chief Meteorologist Marshall McPeek has done a history of The Columbus Marathon race day weather since 2002 and it has been mostly great running conditions. We are looking forward to another incredible race day on Sunday!



Columbus Marathon Climatology

The average Columbus Marathon race day in the Columbus area is sunny with an early-morning low temperature around 40°F and a roughly 30% chance of rain or snow.

On Race Day, October 18, 2026, the sun will provide enough natural light for outdoor activities by 7:18 am with sunrise at 7:45 am. The Columbus Marathon starts at 7:30 am.



Occurrence of Precipitation



Since 1980, nearly 70% of race days have been dry and the majority of days reporting any precip show only a trace amount (less than 0.01"). In the 29 years from 1993 to 2022, no race days reported more than a trace of precip. Two years, 1995 and 1996, each reported a trace of snow (less than 0.1" and, statistically, is considered 0").

Based on data for the Columbus area, marathon race days, 1980-2025.
The 2020 Marathon was cancelled due to COVID-19 safety concerns.

NOTE: Climatological data does not imply a forecast, only a review of past occurrences.



Finish Area

Upon crossing the finish line timing mat, your time will automatically be recorded. **DO NOT STOP** after you cross the Finish Line. Please move through the Finish area to receive a blanket, medal corresponding to the type of bib you are wearing, and refreshments — there will be a variety of fresh, sweet and salty foods, plus chocolate milk, waiting to tackle your hunger at The Meijer Finish Line Food Aisle!

Note: Athletes will receive the finisher's medal corresponding to the type of bib they are wearing, i.e., someone wearing a full marathon bib will receive a full marathon medal, even if they only complete the 1/2 Marathon.



SAFETY REMINDER

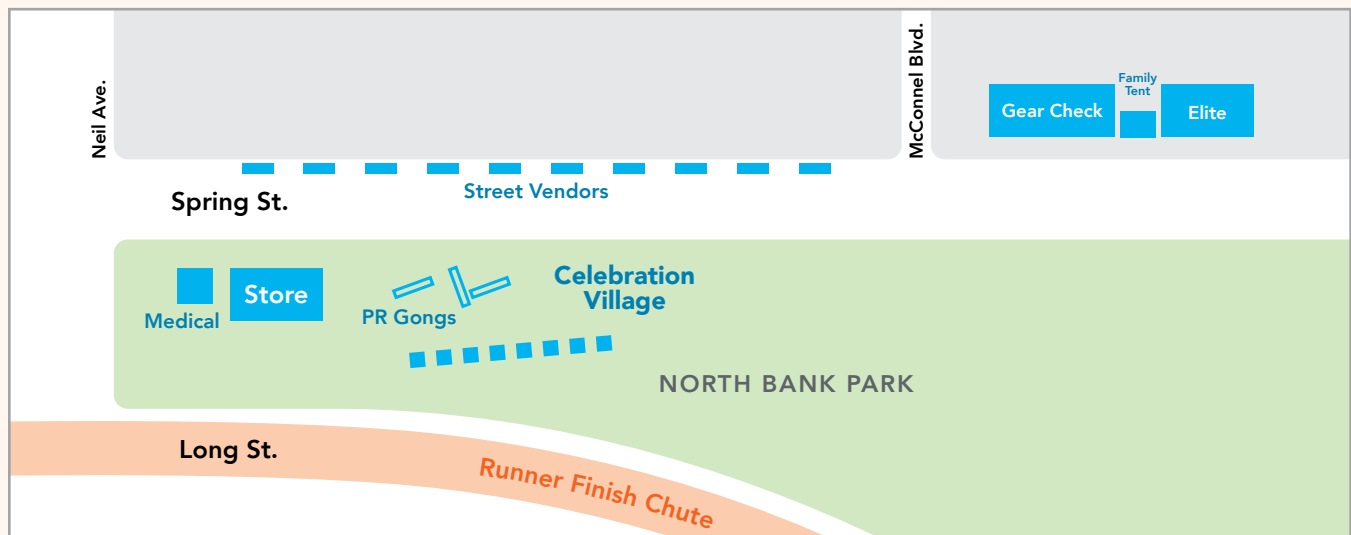
**DO NOT STOP
at the Finish Line!**

Continue moving
through the
Finish Area.

Celebration Village Features

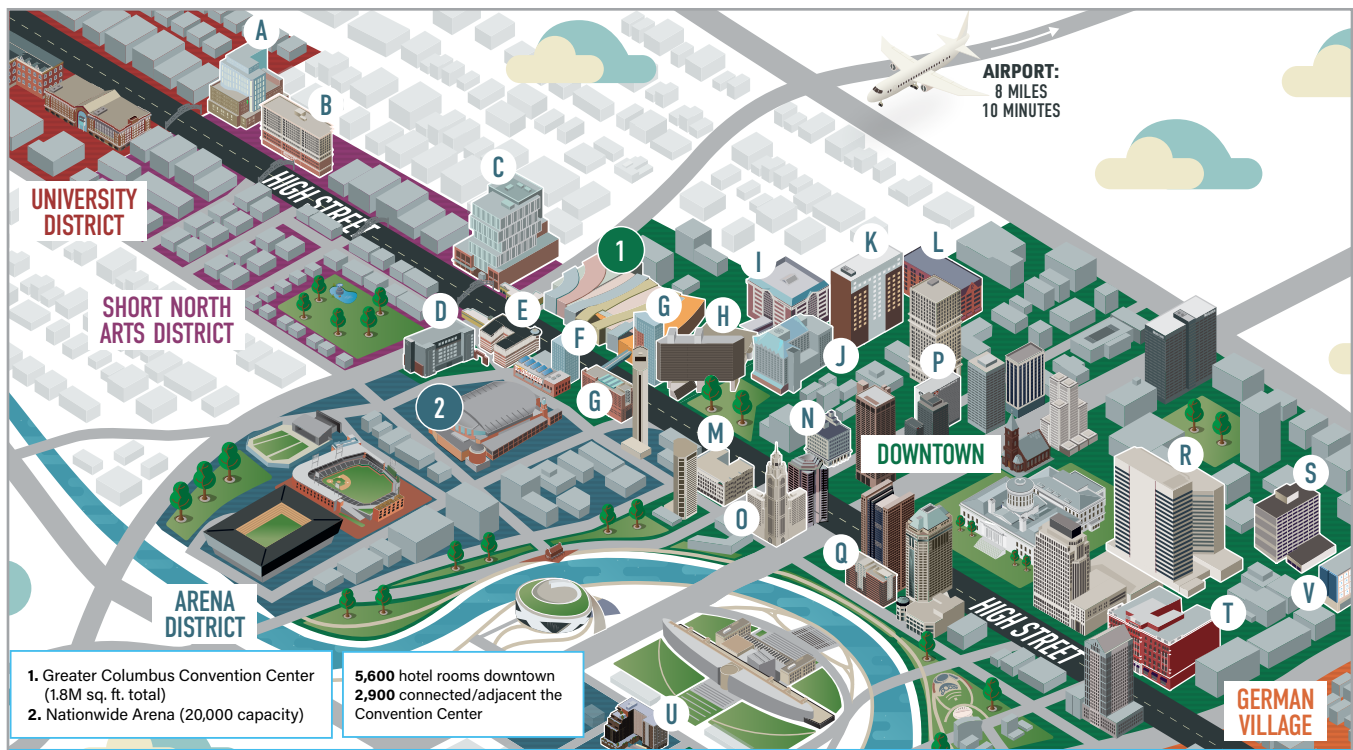
Open to athletes and spectators alike.

- **PR Gongs!** Set a personal record in the Marathon or 1/2 Marathon? (First-timers, the answer is automatically YES!) If so, visit the two PR Gongs sponsored by White Castle, and ring the gong!
- **Food Trucks!** We are happy to host food trucks this year, so bring some money for a post-race treat!
- **Columbus Marathon Store** Our partners at Columbus Running Company will have some great Nationwide Children's Hospital Columbus Marathon & 1/2 Marathon merchandise at the finish line to commemorate your experience.
- **Information Booth** This booth will be at the southwest corner of McFerson Park, at the corner of Spring St. and McConnell Blvd. (adjacent to Dick's Sporting Goods Gear Check Tent). The volunteers there will be equipped to handle questions ranging from how to track your athlete to how to get back to your hotel.
- **Photo Opportunities** Take your race day photos with 26.2 and 13.1 marquees and more!



Coca-Cola Consolidated is proud to continue its third year as the recycling team for the Nationwide Children's Hospital Marathon. In partnership with Keep Columbus Beautiful and The Ohio State University's Sustainability students, Coca-Cola Consolidated will support event-wide recycling efforts in addition to donating 15,000 bottles of DASANI® for participants.

Columbus Meeting Facilities & Hotels



- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>A. Moxy Columbus Short North
(116 rooms 6 blocks)</p> <p>B. Graduate Columbus
(171 rooms 4 blocks)</p> <p>C. Le Méridien Columbus, The Joseph
(135 rooms 2 blocks)</p> <p>D. AC Hotel Columbus Downtown
(160 rooms 1 block)</p> <p>E. Hampton Inn & Suites Columbus Downtown
(179 rooms Adjacent)</p> <p>F. The Merchant
(212 rooms Adjacent Opening in 2026)</p> <p>G. Hilton Columbus Downtown
(1,000 rooms Connected)</p> <p>H. Hyatt Regency Columbus
(633 rooms Connected)</p> <p>I. Drury Plaza Hotel Columbus Downtown
(180 rooms Connected)</p> <p>J. Sonesta Columbus Downtown
(420 rooms Connected)</p> <p>K. Canopy by Hilton Columbus Downtown Short North
(168 rooms Adjacent)</p> | <p>L. Red Roof PLUS+ Columbus Downtown — Convention Center
(143 rooms Adjacent)</p> <p>M. Courtyard Columbus Downtown
(150 rooms 3 blocks)</p> <p>N. Residence Inn by Marriott Columbus Downtown
(126 rooms 5 blocks)</p> <p>O. Hotel LeVeque, Autograph Collection
(155 rooms 5 blocks)</p> <p>P. Renaissance Columbus Downtown Hotel
(408 rooms 5 blocks)</p> <p>Q. The Capital Suites Hotel
(194 rooms 6 blocks)</p> <p>R. The Plaza Hotel Columbus at Capitol Square
(403 rooms 7 blocks)</p> <p>S. Holiday Inn Columbus Downtown Capitol Square
(240 rooms 8 blocks)</p> <p>T. The Westin Great Southern Columbus
(188 rooms 10 blocks)</p> <p>U. The Juno
(198 rooms 12 blocks)</p> <p>V. Home2 Suites by Hilton Columbus Downtown
(106 rooms 16 blocks)</p> |
|---|---|

Course Highlights

The Nationwide Children's Hospital Columbus Marathon & 1/2 Marathon features an exciting course. If you've never been a part of the start of the race in person, it's well worth your time.

- **24 Miles of Marathon Mile Champions** 24 miles are represented by a patient at Nationwide Children's, one is dedicated as an Remembrance Mile for the special children who have been taken too soon, and one is an Encore Mile for the Marathon Mile Champions from past years. These patients and their families will be along every mile of the course to cheer on participants and serve as a visual reminder of how the marathon is helping ill and injured children.
- **Drexel and Main Streets in Bexley** A perfect place to take in the fall colors and amazing homes. Fun fact: Bexley is home to more ice cream shops per capita than anywhere in Ohio.
- **Nationwide Children's Hospital** The Nationwide Children's Hospital Columbus Marathon & 1/2 Marathon will run past two sides of Nationwide Children's Hospital on 18th St. and Livingston Avenue. There will be bands and hundreds of signs to represent those Children Champions who have been raising money for Nationwide Children's Hospital.
- **Parsons Avenue** After race day, plan a visit to support one of the many great food and beverage spots, community resources and more along Parsons Avenue, between Livingston Avenue and Thurman Avenue.
- **Schiller Park** This German Village treasure is bordered by Reinhard, Jaeger and Deshler Streets. This year marks the 158th birthday of this beloved and scenic park.
- **Short North Arts District** Between Nationwide Blvd. and Fifth Ave. — enjoy window shopping at the art galleries and boutique shops and have a cup of joe from one of the local coffee shops while you wait to see your athlete.



Course Highlights

- **OSU** OSU Buckeye Alumni can look forward to revisiting tree-lined campus roads and passing by the iconic Ohio Stadium.
- **Upper Arlington** Upper Arlington is the stretch of course between The Ohio State University and King Avenue. It welcomes athletes with its beautiful homes and gardens. Fun fact: It is the hometown of world-famous golfer Jack Nicklaus. Watch for “Golden Bear Square” on Mallway Drive!
- **Grandview Heights** Enjoy Grandview Avenue with its unique neighborhood boutiques and incredible restaurants.
- **Victorian Village** Neil Avenue with its gorgeous Victorian style homes and beautiful trees will be a welcome reprieve for athletes as they head toward the finish line. Buttles Avenue and Park Street borders Goodale Park, another historic park in Columbus.
- **Celebration Village** Featuring the Columbus Marathon store, PR Gong presented by White Castle, and more!

NOTE: There will also be an Information Booth on Spring St. and McConnell Blvd. as you enter Celebration Village.



Getting around Columbus during Race Weekend



Transportation

No car? No problem.

Getting around town is easy.

Feel free to visit [Experience Columbus](#) for all your transportation needs.

Additionally, we wanted to highlight some options:

- **Central Ohio Transit Authority (COTA), (614) 228-1776.** Normal one-way bus fare is \$2, children 5 to 12 are \$1, children 4 and under are free.
- **Biking or scootering with Veo.** Download the app to find bikes and scooters near you.
- **Yellow Taxi, (614) 444-4444.** The average fare from Port Columbus International Airport to downtown is \$22. Uber and Lyft are also available.
- **Rental cars of all types** are available in every corner of the city. Check with Thrifty, Dollar and Enterprise.



Things to do & see

For the thousands of you who are from outside of Columbus, make sure to check out [Experience Columbus](#) to see all the great attractions, entertainment, dining, shopping, museums and just general fun options available in Columbus.

And for those of you who want to take a closer look at some of the great communities the race course goes through and landmarks it passes by, check out the following:

- The Arena District
- The City of Bexley
- Columbus Museum of Art
- Downtown Columbus
- Franklin Park Conservatory
- German Village
- Grandview Heights
- Harrison West
- Nationwide Children's Hospital
- Ohio Stadium
- Ohio Statehouse
- The Short North Arts District/Victorian Village
- Upper Arlington



**Abercrombie & Fitch Co.
is proud to support
Nationwide Children's Hospital**

Abercrombie & Fitch Co.



 bread financial.

Together, we're helping communities thrive

As a purpose-driven financial services provider, community-minded values are deeply ingrained in our company and culture. That's why Bread Financial® is honored to support the **Nationwide Children's Hospital Columbus Marathon and 1/2 Marathon**. Moments like these remind us of the lasting impact we can achieve when we come together as a community.



To learn more, scan the code or visit breadfinancial.com.



BUILDING *WELLNESS* TOGETHER.

At Elford, our mission is to BUILD, SERVE, and LEAD while supporting our community and enriching lives. This is why we are proud to support the Nationwide Children's Hospital Columbus Marathon as they raise funds for their ongoing mission to provide the highest quality of care for every child treated at NCH.



www.elford.com

KADEN

**EPCON'S
MARATHON MILE
CHAMPION**

Fundraising for
Hematology/Oncology



**Good luck to Team Epcon,
Mile Champion Kaden & every
Columbus Marathon runner!**



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***READY TO BOOK WITH US? CONTACT US AT
COLUMBUSCONVENTIONS.COM OR 614.827.2500
TO START PLANNING.***

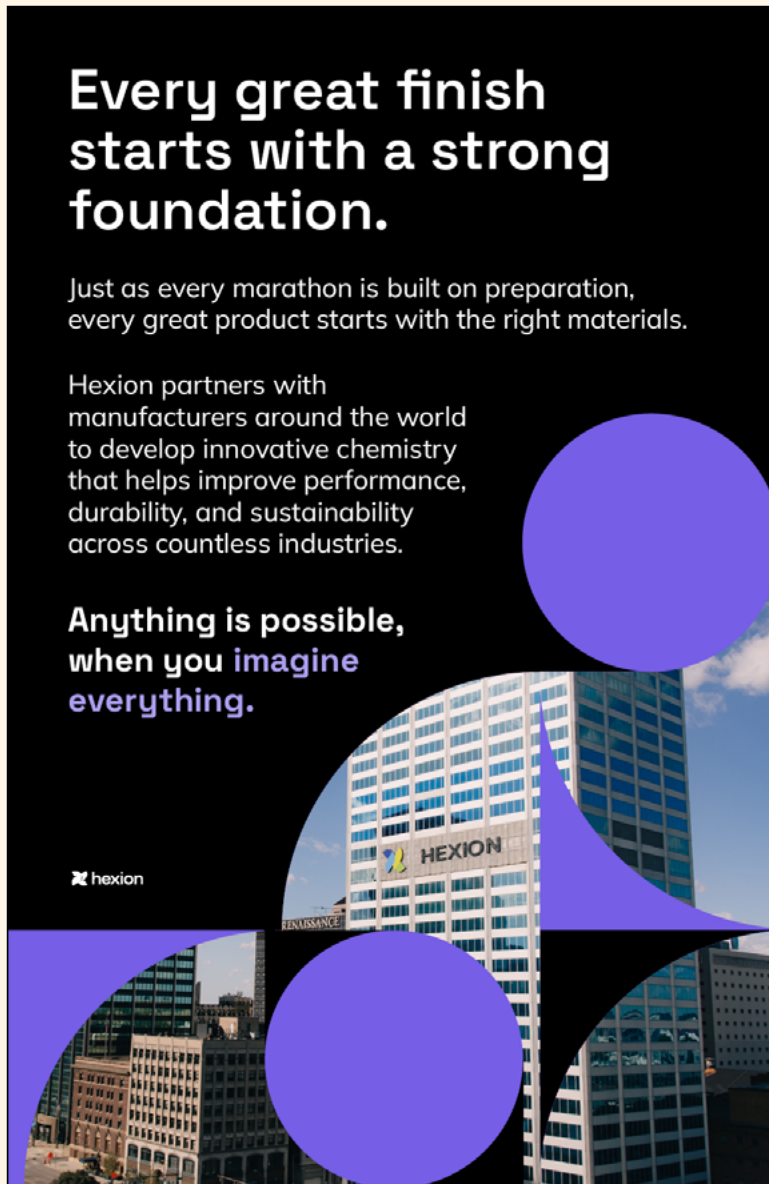
Every great finish starts with a strong foundation.

Just as every marathon is built on preparation, every great product starts with the right materials.

Hexion partners with manufacturers around the world to develop innovative chemistry that helps improve performance, durability, and sustainability across countless industries.

Anything is possible, when you imagine everything.

 hexion





**ALL
IN FOR THE
CHASE**

Every great run starts with determination

We're proud of our long-standing support of the Nationwide Children's Hospital Columbus Marathon & ½ Marathon, which has raised more than \$15 million for research and care for children and families.

This year, we're honored to recognize Chase, our Mile 12 Champion. His perseverance and grit reflect the spirit of every runner chasing a goal worth reaching.



Proud Sponsor of the



The Power of Community

Joining forces with Nationwide Children's Hospital, we're helping to pave the way for all children and their families to have brighter futures.



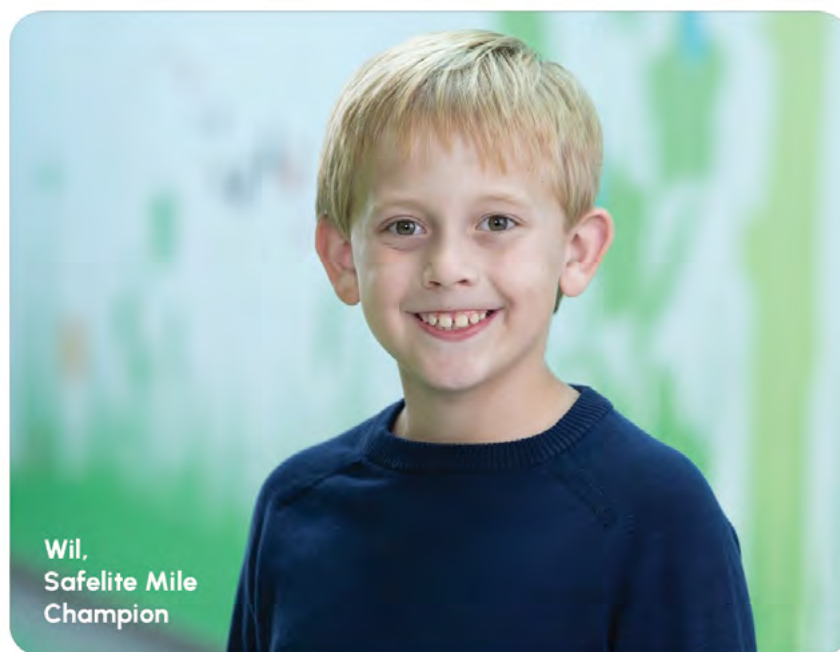
POWER
FOR GOOD. 



NATIONWIDE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL
COL  MBUS MARATHON

Good Luck 2026 Nationwide Children's Hospital
Columbus Marathon & 1/2 Marathon Athletes!

We're looking forward to celebrating with you on Sunday!



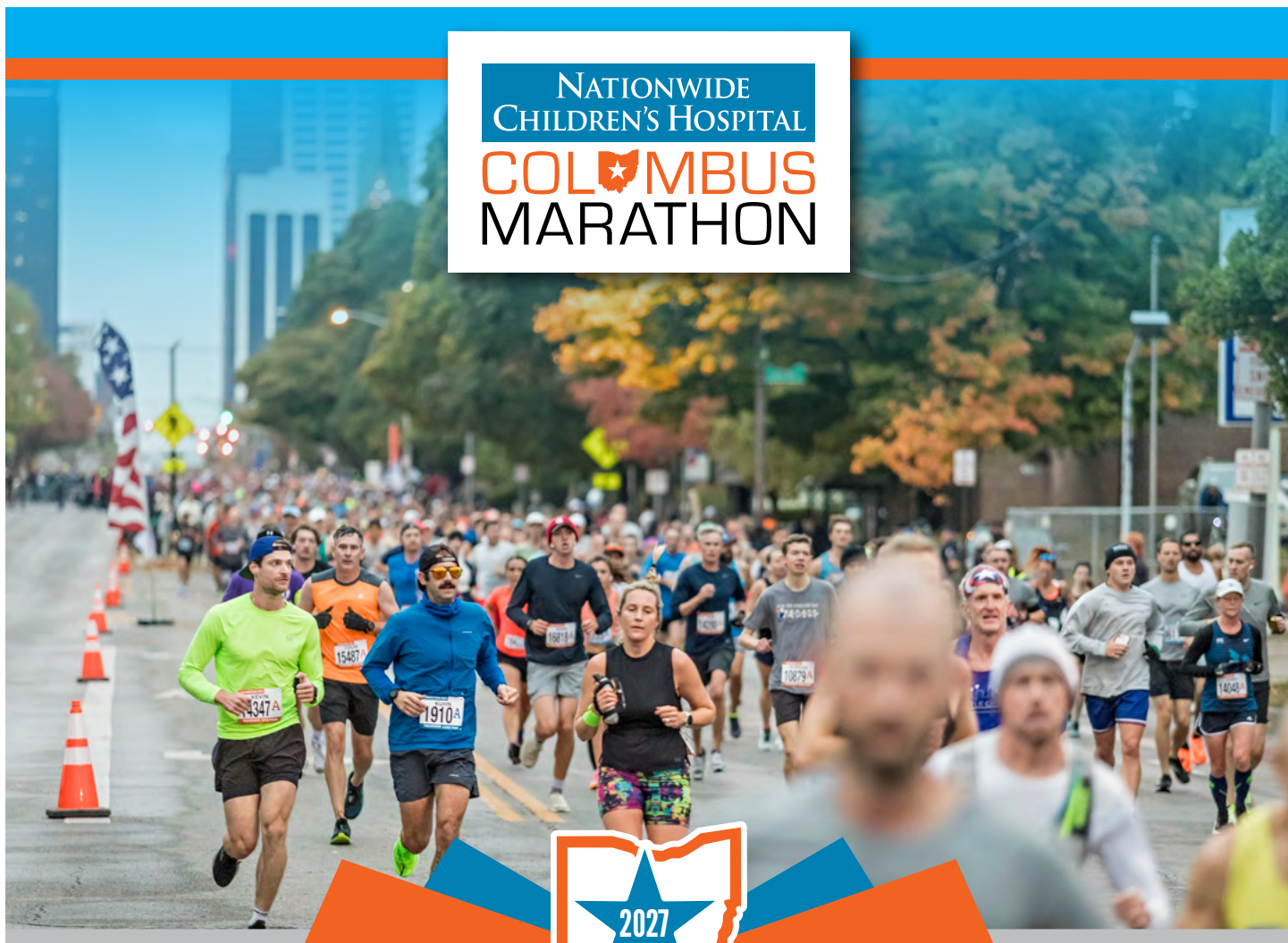
Running with purpose. Racing for hope.

Behind every mile is a child whose strength inspires us all. Safelite is honored to support Nationwide Children's Hospital and the incredible patients, families and care teams making a difference every day.

Safelite



NATIONWIDE
CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL
COLUMBUS
MARATHON



Save the Date

Columbus Marathon Race Weekend

OCTOBER 15 - 17, 2027



columbusmarathon.com