



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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2018 Race Registration Opens February 1

"Early-Bird Prices" In Effect until Feb. 14

(COLUMBUS, OH) – The first day of February marks the beginning of the shortest month of the year with spring in sight and the first day to register for the Nationwide Children's Hospital Columbus Marathon & ½ Marathon.

Set for Sunday October 21, 2018, this will mark the 39th year for the marathon and the 13th year for the ½ Marathon. Runners and walkers can register for the event at www.columbusmarathon.com. Early registration remains at \$75 for the marathon and \$60 for the ½ marathon until Feb. 14.

"I strongly encourage everyone to register as soon as possible—both because it's a better value the sooner you register, as the registration fee rises as we get closer to the race date; and also to ensure you have a slot in the 2018 event," said Race Director Darris Blackford. "Plus, it's a great fitness goal as you head into 2018."

The ½ Marathon course limit will remain at 4 hours, an 18:20-minute-per mile pace, and the Marathon course limit remains six hours, a 13:44/mile pace. More than 100,000 people watch the race, with more than 3,000 volunteers lining the 26.2-mile course.

"2018 will see some changes to the course, to circumvent construction in the Short North and on the Ohio State campus," said Blackford. "This is just one of the changes we are planning to keep the event fresh, as we continue to showcase the Nationwide Children's Hospital Columbus Marathon & ½ Marathon as the premier running, walking and racing event in the Midwest."

Athletes can visit www.columbusmarathon.com for event information, including how to become a Children's Champion to raise money for Nationwide Children's Hospital. The website also features hotel information; Blackford encouraged athletes who are visiting Columbus to book early, as the room block always sell out quickly.

About The Nationwide Children's Hospital Columbus Marathon & ½ Marathon

The Nationwide Children's Hospital Columbus Marathon & ½ Marathon will be held on Sunday, Oct. 21, 2018. The Marathon is now in its 39th year. In its 13th year, the ½ Marathon is the largest in Columbus. Approximately \$7 million has been raised for Nationwide Children's Hospital since it became the title beneficiary of the event in 2012. For more information, visit www.columbusmarathon.com.

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