



## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. *What is the time and location of the event?*

The race starts at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, February 14, 2009 at Linn Park which is located across the street from Boutwell Auditorium at 1930 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue North in downtown Birmingham. We begin with 5<sup>th</sup> graders at 10:00 and each grade after that goes in 12 minute increments.

2. *How do I know if my child's school is participating?*

You will need to contact your child's school to determine this.

3. *Is this a timed race event?*

No. This event is to help children learn about a healthy lifestyle with a major component being exercise. This is the final mile of their marathon journey, not a race.

4. *What if my child can't be there on February 14<sup>th</sup>? Will he/she still get his/her medal?*

No, you must complete your final mile on the marathon course on February 14<sup>th</sup> to receive your medal.

5. *Is there a make up date?*

No, there is no make up date.

6. *What if the weather is bad that day? (Really cold, raining, snowing)*

Our first priority is the safety of your children. Unless there is a danger to your children we will still run. Cold weather will not stop the race nor will rain, unless there are storms associated with it. Snow has never been an issue. We suggest checking our website in the event the weather is bad – [www.mercedesmarathon.com](http://www.mercedesmarathon.com).

7. *Do we need to check-in on race morning?*

No, there is no check-in on race morning. Just come to Linn Park and enjoy the excitement until your grade is called.

8. *Where should I park on race morning?*

There will be street parking available around Linn Park or you can park in one of the city parking decks. Please go to this website for a listing of parking decks in the area – [www.bhamparking.com](http://www.bhamparking.com). The decks will be charging a fee for Saturday parking.

9. *How do I register for the Kids Marathon?*

The deadline for registration has passed. Registration closed on November 30, 2009 to allow children to log their required 25.2 miles before the end of the event.

10. *What is the log sheet for?*

The log sheet is used to track your child's mileage. As your child runs mark the date and distance. Each child is responsible for running a total of 25.2 miles prior to running the last mile on the marathon course on February 14<sup>th</sup>. The log sheet needs to be mailed or faxed to our office by January 30, 2009. Our address is BMI, PO Box 59260, Birmingham, AL 35259 and our fax number is 205-870-7729. **If your child's school is participating you should check with the P.E. teacher to determine if he/she is keeping track of miles at school and if he/she will send us their log sheet.**

11. *Is the Mercedes Kids Marathon a fundraiser?*

The Mercedes Marathon Weekend as a whole is a charitable event. You or your child is welcome to raise money for one of our charities: The Bell Center for Early Intervention and Kid One Transport. You can go to our website at

[www.mercedesmarathon.com](http://www.mercedesmarathon.com) to learn more about these groups and how to fundraise for them.

*12. My child is in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade. Can he/she still participate in the Mercedes Kids Marathon?*

We decided to include up to just 5<sup>th</sup> grade this year. We are encouraging 6<sup>th</sup> graders to run the BE5K (3.1 mile walk/run) which takes place at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, February 14, 2009 right before the kids marathon. If your child really wants to participate in the kids marathon you may register them as a 5<sup>th</sup> grader and they will run with the 5<sup>th</sup> graders.

*13. Can I run with my child?*

We understand that the younger children sometimes want a parent to run with them. For kindergarteners and first graders that is fine. We just ask that you stay at the back of the pack. We ask that ONLY parents run with their child. No younger or older siblings are allowed to run on the course due to safety precautions. For insurance purposes, strollers are allowed on the course. Please do not take a medal or PowerAde for yourself or a younger sibling. We only have enough for registered participants.

*14. Will my child be safe on the course if I am not with him/her?*

**Your child's safety is our first concern.** We will have medical personnel at the start and the finish of the mile. We also have uniformed officials such as firemen, policemen, athletic teams and high school ROTC members running with the children. They will insure that the runners stay on the correct course while offering them encouragement to finish their marathon goal.

*15. Where will my child go after he/she crosses the finish line?*

**Again, let us say – your child's safety is our first concern!** Once your child crosses the finish line we have volunteers that will direct them to a secure fenced in area. They will be given water or PowerAde and if they are having any medical problems we will have medical personnel on-site to handle that. Once they are in the secure fenced in area you (parent/guardian) will go to the area that corresponds with your child's race number (remember-you will have the second race number with you). You will be able to retrieve your child from the fenced area once you show your race number that corresponds with your child's. **NO ID'S WILL BE ACCEPTED – ONLY MATCHING RACE NUMBERS!**

*16. When is packet pick up?*

Packet pick up will take place January 28-29, 2009 at the Old Joseph A. Banks store location at the old Brookwood Convenience Center next to Brookwood Mall. The hours are 8 – 11 a.m. and 2 – 6 p.m. If your child's school is participating then most likely your P.E. coach will be picking up all of the school's packets and distributing them at school. **You will need to check with your P.E. coach to determine this.** If your child's school is not participating you will need to pick up your child's packet during the designated time. It is very important that your child have their packet before race day. We will be sending out an email with details about packet pick up so make sure you add [kids@mercedesmarathon.com](mailto:kids@mercedesmarathon.com) to your address book!

*17. What if I miss packet pick up?*

If you miss packet pick up you can pick your child's packet up on Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> or Saturday morning the 14<sup>th</sup> before the race at Boutwell Auditorium. Race packets will be at the "help" desk located on the stage inside of Boutwell Auditorium. Boutwell is the home of the Mercedes Marathon Health & Fitness Expo. It will be held on Friday from 12:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. or Saturday beginning at 8:30 a.m. Packets will be available to pick up during those times. Once the official packet pick up ends on January 29<sup>th</sup> the race packets will go into storage and will not be available for pick up until the Expo.

*18. What is in the race packet?*

The packets will have official race instructions, a long sleeved race t-shirt, TWO (2) official race numbers, and safety pins to attach your number to the front of your race shirt.

*19. What do I do with the t-shirt and race numbers?*

**It is imperative that your child wear their race shirt on race day!** This helps us determine what grade your child is in. Each grade is given a designated colored t-shirt. **Your child also MUST wear one of the race numbers on the FRONT of their race shirt so officials can see it. The other race number is for the parent or guardian to have so they may identify and pick up their child after the race. No children will be allowed to leave their designated area unless the adult has this matching race number. No IDs will be accepted in place of the race number. You MUST have the matching race number!**

20. *What about final race instructions?*

Registered participants will receive their final race instructions via e-mail in mid January regarding packet pick up times, locations and race day details. To ensure that you receive our emails please add [kids@mercedesmarathon.com](mailto:kids@mercedesmarathon.com) to your address book. Please read the instructions as they will answer all of your questions regarding the events on race day!! If we do not have your email address please email it to [kids@mercedesmarathon.com](mailto:kids@mercedesmarathon.com) otherwise you may not receive your final race instructions.

21. *Where do we go once we get to Linn Park?*

The race will start on Park Place near where 20th Street South runs into Linn Park. We will run the kids by their grade level beginning with the 5<sup>th</sup> grade at 10:00 a.m. There will be a 12 minute lapse between grades ending with kindergarteners at 11:00. We will “corral” each grade in Linn Park across from the entrance to the Tutwiler Hotel. You will need to listen and watch for your child’s grade to be called. The park area will be VERY crowded so please allow for plenty of time to get your child to the right place on time. Please remind your child that this is NOT a race therefore there is no need to push to the front to be first! We will be implementing new ideas to avoid the pushing and shoving at the start line. Once your child’s grade begins running they will run to 20<sup>th</sup> Street, turn left, then down 20<sup>th</sup> Street less than a half of a mile, turn and run back up the other side of 20<sup>th</sup> Street and then around the corner to “short 20<sup>th</sup> Street” and to the finish line. Click here for a map.

Here are the start times:

5 <sup>th</sup> grade	10:00 a.m.
4 <sup>th</sup> grade	10:12 a.m.
3 <sup>rd</sup> grade	10:24 a.m.
2 <sup>nd</sup> grade	10:36 a.m.
1 <sup>st</sup> grade	10:48 a.m.
Kindergarten	11:00 a.m.

22. *Tell me about the Jim ‘N Nick’s Post Race Party.*

The Jim ‘n Nick’s Post Race Party actually takes place on Sunday after the Mercedes Marathon and Half Marathon. If you notice on the bottom of your

child's race numbers there is a ticket for the Post Race Party. This was a printing mistake and we ask that you disregard this information.