



Race Day Details

PLEASE TAKE A MOMENT TO READ – IT MAKES LIFE EASIER FOR EVERYONE ON RACE DAY!

- **Race will take place rain or shine!** No need to try to call and ask otherwise.
- **Remember that we're going green!** Please take a moment to read the recycling information on our website provided by the fabulous students at the Alabama School of Fine Arts. Students from ASFA will be on hand all weekend helping you determine what's recyclable. Please dispose of items as instructed and **DO NOT THROW TRASH INTO RECYCLE CONTAINERS!**
- **Please dress accordingly.** Start off dressed like its 20 degrees warmer than it is at the start. Shorts and singlets will do great with the expected weather. Discarded clothing will be donated to a local homeless shelter.
- **Race starts at 7:03 a.m.** in front of Boutwell Auditorium. Wheelchair athletes will start at 6:58 a.m. Don't forget to set the TIVO to Fox 6 WBRC-TV for 2 ½ hours of live coverage.
- **Portalets** will be available around 19th Street and 8th Ave North near the entrance to the starting chute. If you go into Boutwell before the race, be sure to exit to your right (West) toward 19th Street to enter the starting chute from the back.
- **The race will start near 19th Street and 8th Ave N** and run East towards 24th Street. You will not be able to access the chute from the front. Also, **PLEASE** don't cross in front of the starting area when exiting Boutwell and try to head to the start entrance as the City Hall Side of 8th Avenue will be blocked off at Short 20th Street and you will **NOT** be able to get through. **Please avoid hanging out inside of Boutwell before the race.**
- **Due to insurance regulations**, unregistered runners, unauthorized vehicles, bicycles, skateboards, roller blades, strollers, baby joggers and other wheeled devices and animals are prohibited.
- **Portalets** will be available at each water station along the course.
- **Attach your timing chip to your shoe.** DO NOT carry it in your pocket, leave it in your hotel room or throw it away. No chip, no time, and no chance for a fabulous door prizes. Do not lose it or you'll owe us \$35! Volunteers will be in the finish area to help you remove and return it after the race.
- **Wear your race bib number pinned to the front of your outermost layer of clothes.** If you take this layer off during the race, please be prepared to show us your bib number at each of the timing split mats placed on the course at the relay exchange areas and at the finish line.
- **Anyone crossing the finish line with no bib or no chip will get no medal and no finisher's shirt.** Please don't argue with our wonderful volunteers over this – they have been instructed to be very strict about this.
- **“Scarlett Bib” Expo Registrations:** Expo registrants who complete the marathon or half marathon are not guaranteed a finisher's shirt or medal. If available, they will receive whatever sizes are left once we have pulled out those requested by pre-registered participants. Medals and shirts are ordered in November to cover normal registrations. Once we have guaranteed that all pre-race registrations are covered, we will make available, on a first come-first served basis, finish line amenities to Scarlett Bib finishers.
- We tried our best to predict what quantity and sizes of finisher's shirts to order, so forgive us if the November order is off by a few sizes. Please don't ask for another size than what is on your bib label unless it's XS. If there are any extras, then you may exchange sizes at the tent for Scarlett Bib finishers.
- **Pace groups leaders** will be available ranging from a 3:45 marathon pace up to a 5 hour pace. Signs will be up in the starting chute for you to line up accordingly with faster runners in the front and walkers in the back. It just makes sense not to be a human obstacle to those that can run faster than you so please be considerate and realistic when lining up – it's the southern way to be polite! Please let the wheelchair athletes through as needed since they will be starting 5 minutes earlier.
- **“Sweat Check”** is a great place to leave some clean, dry warm clothes at Boutwell during the race. When facing Boutwell, walk to the right side of the building to drop off your bag at tables labeled “marathon” “relay” and “half-marathon.” Use the sweat check tag issued with your bib #. Extra tags and markers will be available.

Please do not place anything valuable in your checked bag. The Post-Race party is in Boutwell, so it will be easy to come back and pick up your bag on the outside of the building.

- **Please write any pertinent medical information and race day contact information on the back of your race number.** You'll make life lots easier for our medical crews if you will take a minute to fill out the back of your bib. Please include an emergency contact #. Medical stations are available at each relay station, at Pepper Place and at the finish line.
- **There will be 11 water stations (22 for the marathon)** on the course offering water and Lemon-Lime Powerade. The first station is at 2 miles with the second one at mile 3 (in case it's too crowded at the first one). Vanilla GU (with caffeine) and Lemon Sublime GU (without caffeine) will be distributed at the aid stations located close to Miles 4, 8, 11, 14, 17, 21 and 24. Since we've had so many people register this week, we may run short of E-Gel, so please be considerate and take only one at each station. Gu trash containers will be located at Gu stations, so please be neat and toss your empty packets into the Gu trash cans.
- **The infamous "Balloon Lady"** will be sweeping the back of the pack as the designated last finisher of the race moving at a 6 hour pace. She'll have some balloons tied to her waist, so you can't miss her. The Birmingham Police will be following along removing anyone from the course that falls behind her after the courses split at Mile 13. **NO ONE will be allowed to be behind the Balloon Lady once she starts her second loop of the course!** If you're walking the marathon and fall behind her before the courses split, you will be directed to continue on the half-marathon course on the left side of 20th Street towards the finish line. NO EXCEPTIONS will be allowed.
- **Don't miss our wonderful Jim 'n Nick's Post-Race Party and Awards Ceremony** just across from the finish line in Boutwell Auditorium. We've got two live bands, including *Classic Addict* from Atlanta, multiple kegs of Michelob Ultra, and tons of delicious **Jim 'n Nick's BBQ**. The beer and bands are free to everyone but the food is just for race participants. Your friends and family members will be able to buy a bag of food (BBQ sandwich, chips and a cookie) for \$5 in another line. Please don't be rude and double on food and leave the back of the packers hungry. Also, do not hog the tables – please let others sit after you've finished eating.
- **We'll start the Awards Ceremony** for the Half-Marathon at 11:00 a.m. and Marathon & Relay as soon as possible after the race finishes at 1:03 p.m. Although we've donated the money for the cost of the Mercedes-Benz M-Class lease we usually give away directly to The Bell Center this year, we will still have some fabulous door prizes that we will be drawing for during after each awards ceremony. Prizes include flat screen TVs, Verizon phones, IPOD Nanos with Nike Plus kits, running shoes from The Trak Shak and more. You must be present to win the door prizes. In keeping with our green theme this year, we will be collecting bibs for recycling in the lobby of Boutwell after the race. If you plan on sticking around for the drawings, please place your race bib in the appropriately marked container in the lobby. Verizon will be provided 5 great products for a lucky relay team, so relays need to be sure and leave a bib in the drawing pile as well.
- **Showers are available** to race participants at the Downtown YMCA starting at 9:00 a.m. on race day. Just show your number for free access. From the finish line, walk east two blocks to Richard Arrington Blvd and South four blocks to 4th Ave N.
- **Lots of massage therapists will be available** at the post-race party, courtesy of Virginia College.
- **Unofficial Race Results** will be posted in Boutwell as they become available. Please check the label on your bib right now and make sure your name, age and gender are correct. Report any changes to the Trouble Table that will be in the lobby of Boutwell on race day. If you see any problems with your unofficial results when they are posted, please fill out an "issue form" at the Trouble Table ASAP. "Official results" will be posted after all issues are addressed. Email results problems or issues to timing@mercedesmarathon.com.
- **Overall Cash awards** will be presented at the Awards Ceremony. Age group awards consist of some really cool, official Mercedes Marathon merchandise and will be available for pick up at the Awards Table on the stage in Boutwell once the "official results" have been determined.
- **Official results will be emailed and posted on web site (<http://mercedesmarathon.com>)** as soon as possible. Please be sure to set your email to allow messages from info@mercedesmarathon.com.
- **Thank you for coming to Birmingham!! We hope you have an enjoyable experience and a great race!**