

Toughest in Texas, No Bull... Welcome to THE MIRACLE MATCH MARATHON!



So how goes the hill training? The hay is in the barn folks, so enjoy your taper week and get ready to meet your new favorite race. When you cross the finish line, you will not only have done something worthwhile for your health and your ego (we know who you are), you will have also helped to raise funds for the “Be the Match Registry”, operated by the National Marrow Donor Program, a nonprofit, life-saving organization. You will be able to join the Marrow Donor Registry at any point throughout the weekend if you are between the ages of 18-44 and in general good health (We are betting you are...), providing you the opportunity to give the greatest gift of all, a second chance of life for a desperately ill cancer or blood disorder patient.

You have worked hard to get here. We want your race day experience to be a memorable one, and we are doing everything we can to make that happen!

See you on the Bridge!

Nancy and Debbie

Please read the following materials carefully as it contains information vital to your enjoyment of the event as well as your safety.

Race Weekend Information

Race Weekend Schedule

Friday, January 25th

4:00 -7:00 p.m. Registration & Packet Pick Up for all events as well as the Health and Fitness Expo, Waco Convention Center, 100 Washington Ave, Waco, Texas 76701

Saturday, January 26th

6:30 a.m. Registration and Packet Pick Up for the one mile, 5K, Miracle Match KIDS, and Phoenix opens, Waco Convention Center, 100 Washington Ave, Waco, Texas 76701

NOTE: Registration and packet pickup for Sunday races will not open until 10:00 a.m. on Saturday

8:00 a.m. Kids Marathon and One Mile event, Indian Springs Park

8:30 a.m. 5K Event, Indian Springs Park

9:45 a.m. 5K Awards Ceremony

10:15 a.m. Go Team!! Fire Truck Pull, Indian Springs Park. Stick around and watch the testosterone fly... and maybe even some estrogen? This event is FREE to enter, teams of one to whatever.

10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Packet Pickup - - Waco Convention Center, 100 Washington Ave, Waco, Texas 76701

8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Health and Fitness Expo - Waco Convention Center, 100 Washington Ave, Waco, Texas 76701

Sunday, January 27th

5:30 a.m. Early Start – You must register before you begin but because of our incredible timers, Redemption Racing, you will still be eligible for awards

6:00 a.m. Race Day Registration & Packet Pickup - Waco Convention Center, 100 Washington Ave, Waco, Texas 76701

6:30 a.m. Early Start – You must register before you begin

7:30 a.m. Marathon, Half Marathon, 10K and All Relays begins

10:00 a.m. Beef Fajitas Served by the Texas Cookin' Cowboys and provided by the Texas Beef Council

2:00 p.m. Course Closes

All day - Party on the bridge!!

Race Location

Indian Springs Park, 113 S. University Parks, downtown Waco, Texas.

Take the University Parks exit off of I-35 and go 0.5 miles west towards downtown. You can't miss it... seriously.

Arrival & Parking

It's an easy walk from the downtown hotels to the starting line. If you drive, you can park at the corner of Franklin and University Parks, as well as in the Convention Center and Hilton lots.

Packet Pickup

Friday 4:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. at the Waco Convention Center, 100 Washington Ave, Waco, Texas 76701

Saturday 6:30 a.m. - 8:30 a.m. for the Saturday races (One Mile, Kids Race, and 5K) only - Waco Convention Center, 100 Washington Ave, Waco, Texas 76701

Saturday 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 for all Sunday events – Waco Convention Center, 100 Washington Ave, Waco, Texas 76701

At the expo, join The Marrow Donor Registry!

The beauty of a small race (how many times can we say that??) is that you may also pick up your packets race morning beginning at 6:00 a.m. You can even register your date on race day; you just have to pay us more, but that helps Be the Match. In any case, arrive early if you plan to do these housekeeping activities on Race Day.

Phoenix Participants

As a Phoenix runner, you have two bibs in your envelope. The first is your race bib for your Sunday run (half or full marathon) that has a large "P" in the corner. That bib also designates you as a Phoenix runner for the 5K on Saturday. Please wear this bib both days. The second bib is the Phoenix bib that you can put on as well. Sunday when you complete your race, come to the tent that has the finisher swag for your phoenix medal and pilsner glass.

Road Closures

Almost all roads will have at least one lane open - the only exception is Austin Avenue, which will be completely closed to traffic beginning at 7:00 a.m. Cameron Park will also be closed to traffic beginning at 7:00 a.m.

Early Start Options

Yes, we have early starts at 5:30 a.m. and 6:30 a.m. Please be aware that you are running/walking at your own risk beyond the course hours of 7:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. We will have a sign up at Packet Pick Up. It is your responsibility

to submit your bib number at that time or in the morning to the Race Administrator, the Race Director, or the Timing Company BEFORE YOU START. If not, you may run the risk of harm from some dude dressed in a tutu who just PR'ed and placed for the first time ever. We will also be forced to disqualify you. Make sure you turn your name in ahead of time and rest assured we will be at the finish line with your medal and your margarita.

Spectators

Spectators – We love our athletic supporters! Again, most roads have one lane open so this is a very spectator friendly race. The Cameron Park area, unless you brought a bike, is the only section in which it will be difficult to find your superstar(s). We ask that all spectators waiting on the bridge for “their” runner stay on the side walkways of the bridge, not in the middle, so the runners have a clear shot to the finish line and to allow PhotoWolfe to capture their moment of glory, their moment of agony, or their moment of pure relief!

Are you a stalker??? We can give you the best technology in athlete tracking! **YOU CAN TRACK YOUR RUNNER THROUGH RACEJOY!!** Racejoy is a mobile app for live runner tracking and cheers. If you carry your phone with you during the race, you can receive GPS alerts at mile points, people can track your cute little blue dot along the course and send you fun cheers or – lucky you – heckles. We will also have the live tracking on TV screens at the start/finish line allowing even better stalking of your loved ones, your competitors, your frienemies. Last year we charged for this benefit, but this year KWTX has graciously sponsored it, making it free to athletes and spectators alike. Download RaceJoy and start exploring <http://www.Racejoy.com/download.html>

Relay Stations

We strongly encourage you to provide your own transportation to the relay stations. We do, however, have the Wesley Woods Nursing Home van (come on now, that's funny) available to transport relay participants to and from the start line to each exchange station. The shuttle starts its runs at 7:45 a.m. from the corner of University Parks and Franklin Avenue.

Just know if you rely on this, you may have to wait a few minutes as it makes the rounds.

Bag Drop

You can leave your bag at our drop area inside the Convention Center near the start/finish line. Please tag your bag with your name or race number. The area will be supervised by volunteers, but please know the race committee is not responsible for your belongings, just your good time on race day.

Timing

1 mile and Miracle Match KIDS races are not timed events. Listen to me now... It's.For.FUN. Children completing their final mile of the Kids Marathon will be receiving their finisher medals and water bottle. One mile finishers will receive a finisher ribbon.

5K – Chip Timed by Redemption Racing from San Antonio. Love those guys!

Sunday races – your chip timer will be a disposable one that will be on the back of your bib. So, make sure and keep your bib on - NO CHIP - NO TIME!!!!

Full Marathon & Half Marathon Finishers

Water Bottles and Shirts

Upon crossing the finish line, full marathoners and half marathoners can expect to receive the fabulous custom finisher hat and custom medal made by a Waco Firefighter who donated stem cells to save the life of a complete stranger through Be the Match... the real reason for the race. Both a bad ass finisher statement - you are our walking billboard!

All participants can expect a party on the bridge; brisket fajitas sponsored by the Texas Beef Council, and beverages sponsored by Glazers, Miller Lite, Coors Light. All this keeps the Race Director and the volunteers happy, rest assured.

Finisher Medals

Our unique finisher medals and award medals for the Sunday events have once again been handmade by Waco fire fighter and stem cell donor, Tim Anderson. Awards will be given following the completion of the event based on age groups. Those receiving age group awards who chose not to stay for the award ceremony will have their award medals mailed to them approximately 2 to 3 weeks after the event for a \$5.00 fee paid prior to mailing. Please wait patiently and do not call us Sunday night of the race asking when it will arrive, as you risk the chance that Nancy will bite your head off.

Seriously, it has happened before. Thank you for your cooperation.

Finisher Food

Our Saturday races will have snacks at the finish line as well as orange juice and milk donated by Oak Farms, Tailwind, and bottled water from Dasani.

There is also a pancake breakfast provided by the McLennan County Sheriff's Association and the West Kiwanis Club. Donations will be accepted to cover costs; everything else goes to Be the Match.

Sunday, the award-winning Waco Cookin' Cowboys will again be graciously cooking brisket tacos onsite provided by The Texas Beef Council. The food is donated for our runners only. However, if 'athletic supporters' want to partake, they may make a suggested donation of \$10 or more to help cover our costs and increase the amount of funds raised for Be the Match. In addition, Mars Snackfoods, Inc. is providing candy, to satisfy your sweet tooth. Water and Sodas will be provided by Coca Cola Bottling to keep you hydrated and caffeinated!

Beer Wine

Sauza Tequilas, The Motor Shop, Miller Lite, Coors Light, and Glazer Distributing have graciously provided our 'adult' (we use that term loosely) athletes with beer and wine to celebrate the finish line. You must be 21 years of age or older to consume. Please know security will be on site to control consumption and the age limits; be prepared to show proof of age, no matter how old you look after all those hills. Thank you in advance for your cooperation; Party On!

Medical

Many of our firefighters are registered EMT's. We also have an ambulance on hand courtesy of the East Texas EMS. All rest stops have emergency contact numbers – please alert the volunteers if you or another runner are in need of aid. The day is looking to be unfortunately a wee bit warm. Plan accordingly – drink early and often, consume salt.

Headphones

Yes, we allow them, but only if you have some Jay Z and Pitbull on your playlist. Seriously, we love running to our music too; we just ask that you be smart and considerate to your fellow athletes. Roads are not closed to traffic along the majority of the route; be aware of your surroundings. Don't be 'that guy'...

Rest Stations

Full Marathon, 10K, and Relays - Starting at mile 1.5, they will be every mile to mile and a half.

5K course - Located at 1.5.

Please remember to thank our volunteers, especially if they are dressed like angels or wearing belly dancing costumes in 30degree weather!!

Restrooms

Full Marathon and Relay - Located at mile 2, 5, 7, 11, 13, 15, 18.5, 23, and 26 .

Half Marathon - Located at mile 2, 5, 7 & 10.

Electrolyte Gels

Available on the Full course at miles 18, mile 21, and mile 24.

Mile Markers

Please take a moment during your run to note the very special mile markers this year. Each mile of the race has been dedicated to a marrow or stem cell donor, recipient, or a patient waiting to find a matched donor. We hope as you run your race, you will think about the true "Miracle Match" represented by each of those individuals.

Social Media

Yes, you know it's you... share on our FB page, Instagram, and use our custom snapchat filter on Race Day. It's YOUR MOMENT. Share it!

For questions, concerns, and general DAQ's, see our website or contact us.

<http://miraclematchmarathon.net>

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