

Frequently Asked Questions

I registered my child online, what do I do now?

You will need to pick up your child's bib at Bib Pick Up which will include a bib number and safety pins. Bib Pick Up will be held on Friday Sept. 27th from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. at The Commons (Mill Race Marathon EXPO) in downtown Columbus at the Fun Run Booth. Then bib pick up will be from 4:30 p.m. up until race time at the large white tent in Mill Race Park.

Please take a moment to write the cell phone number, of the adult who will be in the park with the child, on the back of the bib. Pin the bib on the front of the child's shirt. Make sure you do not pin down the bottom section which is a tear off tag. The tag will be removed once the child crosses the finish line.

I pre-paid for a t-shirt. Where do I pick that up?

If you pre-paid for a t-shirt, the size that you requested will be reserved for you at Bib Pick Up. When you go to Bib Pick up (Commons from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., Mill Race Park from 4:30 p.m. until race time), you will receive your child's bib. If you pre-paid for a shirt they will get your shirt for you at that time.

What if I didn't buy a shirt during registration, but I would still like to purchase a shirt?

There will be a limited number of t-shirts available for sale at Bib Pick Up. Sizes available are not guaranteed. Only shirts purchased in advance are guaranteed.

Where is the race course, and what is the distance?

The race courses will be set up in Mill Race Park in Columbus, IN. The park main entrance is located at Lindsey and 5th Street. There are 6 races with the distances below:

The Tots Race (2,3,4 year olds) – 200 meters

Pre-K and Kindergarten (with parents)- ½ K

Pre-K and Kindergarten (without parents)- ½K

1ST & 2ND grades- 1K

3rd & 4th grades- 1 ½ K

5th & 6th grades- 2 K

My child is 4 years old and in Pre-K which race should they run in?

A child, 4 years old, can participate in either the Tots race or the Pre-K and Kindergarten race. We would recommend that the parent/caregiver decide the distance you think your child can handle, based on how long the child has been 4 years old, if they are in school, and if their friends are in one race or the other. There is an option, in the first heat of the Pre-K & Kindergarten race, for a parent to join their child from start to finish.

Can my child in 1st grade run with her friend who is in Kindergarten?

Yes! If a child would like to run with a friend that is in a different age category, they are welcome to. We will not have a distinction on the bibs of which race they will be in. We would recommend that they run in the race that best fits the distance of the youngest runner.

May I run with my child?

The Tots race may have parents fully participate by joining their child in the start corral and go all the way through the finish line.

There are two heats for the Pre-K & Kindergarten group. The first heat will allow parents to join their child. The second heat will not allow parents.

For the 1st & 2nd grade and older groups, the parents or older siblings may join their child on the course, past the start corral, and must exit the course prior to the finish line chute. Parents or older siblings may then walk alongside the finish line chute (on the outside) until the race participant can be picked up in the Child Pick Up Zone.

A child in 1st grade or older, with special needs, who requires parent support, can request a sticker dot at bib pick up and/or registration. The sticker will be placed on their bib to indicate that a parent may join them in the start corral and run through the finish chute.

Will there be individual awards?

Every child who crosses the finish line will receive a commemorative race medal. This event is not timed, so there will be no individual place awards. Each child who crosses the finish line will also have the bottom portion of their bib torn off. The portion of the bib will have the child's school listed. The bibs will be counted, and the schools with the highest percentage of finishers in their school size category will be eligible for prizes.

How is the safety of the children provided?

Wide start and finish lines will be provided so the children can spread out at the start and finish of the race. Race volunteers will be running and leading the children through the course. Volunteers will also be stationed along the course helping direct the children. Police officers and security personnel will be stationed throughout the park and in the Child Pick Up Zone. An ambulance is available in case of emergency in the park, near the flag pole.

Where do we park?

There is limited parking in the parking lot in the Mill Race Park parking lot nearest the railroad tracks. Parking volunteers will help assist vehicles to park in the grassy areas to allow for maximum vehicles in that area. The remaining areas of the park will be closed to traffic, for the safety of our races. Additional parking is available in the Cummins Corporate Office Building Parking lot across Lindsey St. A police officer will be located at the intersection of Lindsey and 5th Street to assist with safe pedestrian crossing. A **High-intensity Activated crossWalK** (HAWK) pedestrian signal has also been installed at the intersection of Lindsey and 5th Street to assist with safe pedestrian crossing.

For those who would like to ride their bicycles to the park we will have bike valet parking provided by Bicycle Co-op volunteers. The valet parking will be available near the flag pole at the Lindsey and 5th street entrance. This is a free service but donations to the bike co-op will be accepted and greatly appreciated. www.bikeco-op.org

Could my child miss the race due to train traffic?

Yes. Please plan to arrive with enough time to possibly wait on a train before you are able to enter the park. Train traffic will not be held for the Kids Fun Run and the races will be held consecutively starting with the Tots race at 6:00pm.

What type of refreshment is available for my child?

Each child who comes through the finish chute will be provided a cup full of water and a banana. We ask that all children take the cup and banana and continue through the chute into the Child Pick Up Zone. This allows for the refreshment area to clear out so the volunteers can set up for the next group of race participants. The plastic cup that the child receives is a souvenir and does not need to be returned to the refreshment area.

Water jugs will be available at the end of the white tent, nearest the Child Pick Up zone, for refills in their souvenir cup. Paper cups will also be provided near the additional water jugs for those who may have misplaced their souvenir cup.