

PARTICIPANTS' GUIDE



lululemon

The lululemon Classic City Marathon,
Athena Half-Marathon, & Classic City Marathon Relay



Sunday, January 28th, 2024

If the answer to your question is not in this Participants' Guide or in the Spectators' Guide, please check our [Facebook Page](#) or post your question there (en ingles o en español; todas las corredoras son bienvenidas/bienvenidos) so we can answer for everyone.

The lululemon Classic City Marathon has incorporated environmentally and socially responsible practices into the planning and execution of our races. Join us in these efforts on race weekend! Look for the laurel wreath in this guide to find out how.



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SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

SATURDAY, JANUARY 27TH, 2024

12PM - 6PM

EXPO & PACKET PICK-UP

Creature Comforts Taproom and Brewery
271 West Hancock Avenue

SUNDAY, JANUARY 28TH, 2024

6AM

Gear check opens at the Classic Center

7:30AM

MARATHON, HALF-MARATHON & MARATHON RELAY

130 West Hancock Avenue
Between Lumpkin Street and Hull Street

9:30AM - 12:30PM

AWARD PRESENTATIONS & AWARD PICK-UP

Post-Race Festivities and Awards Area
Grand Ballroom 8 of the Classic Center

9:30AM

PRESENTATION OF OVERALL AWARDS FOR THE HALF-MARATHON

12PM

PRESENTATION OF OVERALL AWARDS FOR THE MARATHON AND MARATHON RELAY

AGE GROUP AWARDS (top 3 finishers in 5-year age groups, for individual runners) can be picked up at the awards table after overall winners have been verified

1:30PM

The marathon course will be fully supported until 1:30pm

2:30PM

The finish line will be fully supported until 2:30pm

Athens is in the Eastern time zone.

NEED TO CHANGE YOUR REGISTRATION?

Registered runners may make changes to their registration until January 22, 2024. After that point, no changes will be allowed. Deferrals to next year's race are not allowed.

To make a change to your registration, access the confirmation email that was sent to you following registration and use the Manage Registration link in that email, or sign in to your Run Sign Up profile and select this race. On the My Registration page, all available change options can be found in the menu bar at the top of the page.

PREPARING FOR YOUR TRIP TO ATHENS

Pack for the weather.

- Watch the weather forecast before race day. Temperatures will probably be in the mid 40s Fahrenheit.
- We are “rain or shine” races, unless a genuine ice storm interferes! Bring a hat or your windbreaker if rain is forecast.

Pack all your gear. Here's a checklist:

- Your favorite lucky running shoes & outfit!
- Watch, iPod or phone, and their chargers
- Earbuds or headphones and their charger
- SPIBelt, FlipBelt, or other pack, if you use one
- Bib belt or magnets, if you have them
- Your BodyGlide, tape, or other necessities
- Your favorite nutrition gels, chews, pretzels, etc.



You can feel good about bringing a throw-away sweatshirt with you! We will collect all clothing discarded along the route and donate it to local charities (Gear Check is also available).

Spend some time before race day with the course maps.

All races start in the 100 block of West Hancock Avenue, between Lumpkin Street and Hull Street, in downtown Athens. The marathon and half-marathon courses split and then rejoin each other several times, including once early in the race.

- If you will be running the half-marathon, be aware that you will turn right from Prince Avenue onto Barber Street at 1.1 miles, as the marathoners continue straight.
- If you will be running the full marathon or the first leg of the marathon relay, be aware that you will continue on Prince Avenue throughout your second and third miles, even though the half-marathoners will turn right at 1.1 miles.

Coordinate ahead of time with your relay team.

- If you are part of a marathon relay team, decide who will run which leg.
- Plan ahead for your transportation to or between the relay exchange points.
- Registered relay runners will receive detailed information (via email) about available shuttles to and from the relay exchange points. **Shuttle seats must be reserved by January 15, 2024. If your relay team did not reserve shuttle seats, you are responsible for your own transportation to, between, and from the relay exchange points.**

Coordinate ahead of time with your supporters.



- Make sure both you and your supporters have downloaded and set up the **RaceJoy** app from Google Play or the Apple app store. Add the Classic City Marathon as one of your races. Make sure your supporters do the same thing so they can track you on the course.
- Have your supporters set up **Result Notifications** from Run Sign Up. You and your supporters can find this under **Participant Tracking** on the [home page](#) menu bar of the RunSignup registration site for the Classic City Marathon. Once turned on, notifications will be sent as you cross over timing points along the course.
- If anyone will be coming to cheer for you, look at the course maps with them. Use your best-case estimate of your fastest possible pace to help them decide where to be and when, so they don't arrive too late and miss you!

*Make sure your supporters have the **Classic City Marathon Spectators' Guide**. It provides lots of useful information, including information about our special **Cheer Zones** locations for spectators.*

Plan for everyone's needs.

- We want all runners to enjoy our races! Please [contact the Classic City Marathon Association](#) if you have any questions about participating in our races as a person whose abilities in vision, hearing, mobility, neurosensitivity, or any other realm might differ from those of other people, or if you need assistance planning for any runner's special medical or other needs.
- Strollers are not allowed on the race courses.
- Dogs are not allowed on the race courses.
- Si necesita información en español, [envíe un correo electrónico](#) a nuestro embajador de carrera que habla español.



PACKET PICK-UP AND EXPO

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 27TH, 12PM-6PM
CREATURE COMFORTS TAPROOM AND BREWERY
271 WEST HANCOCK AVENUE**

All race bibs MUST be picked up between 12pm and 6pm Eastern Standard Time on Saturday, January 27th at the Classic City Marathon Expo.

- If you cannot attend the Expo, a friend can pick up your bib for you. They will need a photo or a paper copy of your ID.
- There will be NO packet pick-up on race day and NO race day registration.

Spectators, family, children, and friends are welcome at the Expo! Creature Comforts has a large family-friendly enclosed patio, and there will be great vendors, activities, and entertainment. Last-minute registration will also be available at the Expo if the races have not sold out.

Explore the walkable blocks of downtown Athens on foot after your runner picks up their bib. You could [find the starting line](#), or go further and [find the Classic Center](#) (site of the pre-race Gear Check, indoor restrooms, and finish line). The [Athens Music Walk of Fame](#) covers some of the same blocks!

Athens also boasts a wide range of [downtown restaurants](#) for the perfect pre-race lunch or dinner.

Walk to the Expo from the Classic City Marathon partner hotels:

- [Hilton Garden Inn to Creature Comforts](#): ~0.5 miles
- [Hotel Indigo to Creature Comforts](#): ~0.4 miles
- [Springhill Suites to Creature Comforts](#): ~0.3 miles

[Park for the Expo](#) in metered street parking or in city parking decks (both decks are between the Expo and the Classic Center)

- [Washington Street Deck to Creature Comforts](#): ~0.3 miles
- [College Avenue Deck to Creature Comforts](#): ~0.35 miles



Sustainability at the Expo

- Our race shirts were made using Oeko-Tex® eco-friendly dyes, which are recycled within a semi-closed loop 7-10x water-saving system. These shirts are also PFAS chemical-free and made in the USA (including being knit, dyed, cut, sewn, packed and shipped within 20 miles of Athens!).
- The Expo venue, Creature Comforts Brewery, is a certified [B Corporation](#), committed to community development, transparency, and accountability.
- Recycling and composting will be available at the Expo.
- Expo vendors who have signed a green pledge will be marked with a wreath. Watch for them!

IT'S RACE DAY!

KEY DETAILS

- Starting Line is at 130 West Hancock Avenue
- Corrals A-D will stretch west on Hancock Avenue toward Hull Street
- Gear Check and Indoor Bathrooms are located at the Classic Center, at the eastern end of Hancock Avenue and about 0.5 miles from the Starting Line
- Your race starts at 7:30am
- Finish Line is at the corner of East Dougherty Street and Foundry Street at the north end of the Classic Center
- Post-Race Festivities and Awards Area is in Grand Ballroom 8 inside the Classic Center

THE START OF THE RACE

Be in your starting corral on West Hancock Avenue, between Lumpkin Street and Hull Street, before 7:20am.

All races start together at 7:30am, using the same corrals, with only brief holds between waves.

- Starting corrals will combine marathoners, half-marathoners, and first-leg marathon-relay runners. Start in your assigned corral, as shown on your bib, whether you are running the marathon, the half-marathon, or the first leg of the marathon relay.
- Corral assignments are based on the anticipated pace you reported when you registered. You may fall back to a later-starting corral if you want to start with another runner. Do not advance to an earlier-starting corral; have your faster friend fall back to start with you.
- Spectators are welcome in the downtown area but cannot enter the starting corrals with you.



*Compost and recycling bins will be positioned at the entrances to the starting line corrals. Please place **food waste** (banana peels, etc) in the **compost bin** and plastic **water bottles** in the **recycle bin** instead of using trash bins for these items. Thank you for helping to reduce the amount of waste we will have to send to the landfill!*

Pace Groups: Look for pace group leaders in the corrals, if you have a time goal.

- Watch carefully for pace-group signs that say “FULL” marathon or “HALF” marathon!
- We expect to have pace-group leaders for marathon time goals of 3:00, 3:15, 3:30, 3:45, 4:00, 4:15, 4:30, and 5:00.
- We expect to have pace-group leaders for half-marathon time goals of 1:30, 1:40, 1:50, 2:00, 2:10, 2:20, and 2:30.

GETTING TO THE STARTING LINE

WALK TO THE STARTING LINE

All lululemon Classic City Marathon partner hotels are in downtown Athens, an easy walk from the starting line.

- [Hilton Garden Inn to Starting Line](#): ~0.33 miles
- [Hotel Indigo to Starting Line](#): ~0.25 miles
- [Springhill Suites by Marriott to Starting Line](#): ~0.35 miles

Walking Back to your Hotel: All lululemon Classic City Marathon and Athena Half-Marathon partner hotels are also an easy walk from the finish line at the Classic Center.

- [Classic Center to Hilton Garden Inn](#): Less than 0.1 miles
- [Classic Center to Hotel Indigo](#): ~.3 miles
- [Classic Center to Springhill Suites by Marriott](#): ~0.6 miles

GETTING DROPPED OFF FOR THE STARTING LINE

- If you are driving from the west to drop off a runner for the race, consider using the 200 block of East Clayton Street, near Classic City Cycling.
- If you are driving from the east to drop off a runner for the race, consider using Baldwin Street, South Lumpkin Street, or the upper entrance of the Founders Memorial Garden on Bocock Street to avoid the people who are trying to park downtown.

PARKING FOR THE RACE

If you will be parking in downtown Athens on race morning, be aware that streets may still be closed for other runners when you are trying to leave.

- Consider parking in the [Classic Center Parking Deck](#) (enter from Foundry Street, not Thomas Street, on race day).
- Consider a University of Georgia campus lot or parking deck (read carefully about [which lots require payments](#) on Sundays).
- Do not park in any church parking lot. It's Sunday! They will need their parking spaces.

We suggest staying in one of our [partner hotels in downtown Athens](#). If you are not staying downtown, we suggest that runners should arrive to the downtown Athens area by 7am. The Classic Center is about 0.5 miles from the Starting Line and will be a good place to stay warm. The Classic Center has plenty of indoor restrooms and is also the site of Gear Check and the Post-Race Festivities and Awards Area (both in Grand Ballroom 8; signage will be posted).

BATHROOMS AND PORT-A-POTTIES

- Indoor restrooms will be available before and during the race at the Classic Center (at the eastern end of Hancock Avenue or Washington Street).
- Port-a-potties will be available near the starting line and also at regular intervals along both courses, starting at Mile 1.7 of the marathon course and mile 3.3 of the half-marathon.

GEAR CHECK

- Gear Check will be available starting at 6am in Grand Ballroom 8 of the Classic Center, which is near the Finish Line and is the site of the Post-Race Awards and Festivities Area. You can access Grand Ballroom 8 via the loading dock between Thomas Street and Foundry Street (off of Dougherty Street). There will also be signage directing you to Gear Check from the Starting Line.
- Give yourself plenty of time; Gear Check at the Classic Center is about 0.5 miles from the Starting Line.



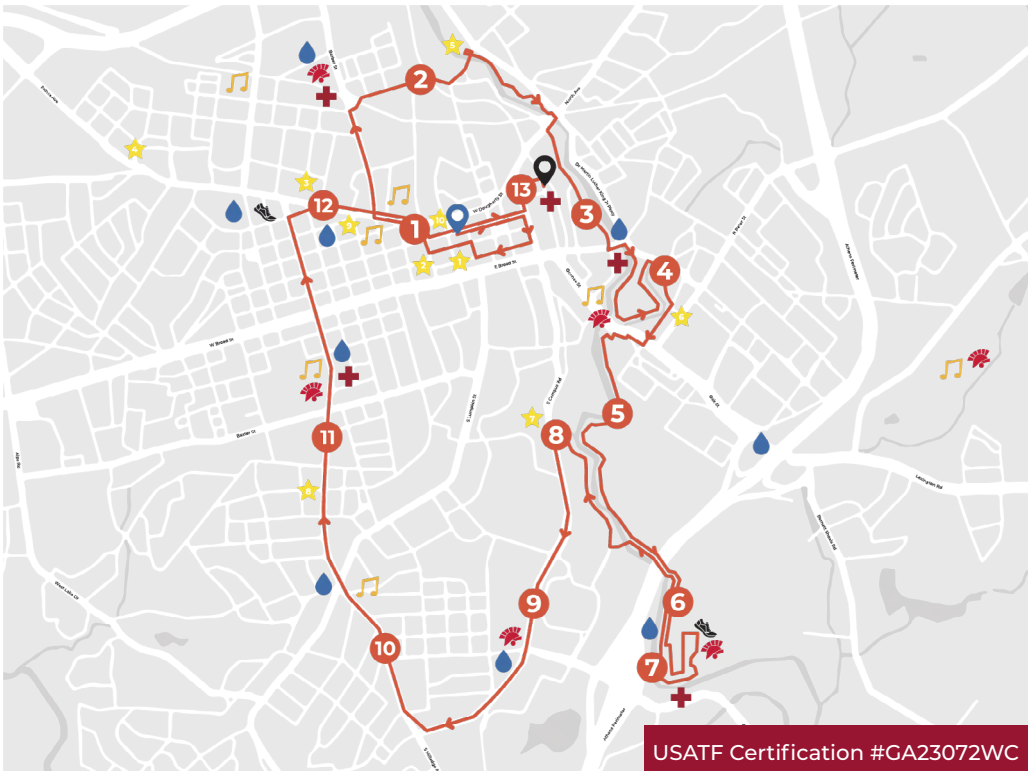
If you choose not to check your extra clothing, you can donate it! The Classic City Marathon Association will collect all clothing discarded at the starting line or along the route and donate it to local charities.

DURING THE RACE

MARATHON



HALF-MARATHON





WATER STOPS

- Water stops will feature [Hiccup's washable, re-usable cups!](#) We are proud to be partnering with Hiccup's to avoid what would have otherwise been thousands of cups dumped into our community's landfills.
- The cups will feel great in your hand, but they are not souvenirs. Please don't take the cups home! **Just toss your cup into the big collection can after each water stop, as you are used to doing at any race.** Hiccup's will retrieve them later, wash them, and re-use them at another race!
- All water stops will have water at the first tables followed by PowerAde at the second tables.

Marathon Water Stops and Port-a-Potties

Miles 1.7, 3.0, 6.7, 8.1, 10.0, 11.0, 13.2, 15.3, 16.4,
19.5, 22.5, 23.7, 24.6, 25.4

Half- Marathon Water Stops and Port-a-Potties

Miles 3.3, 6.3, 9.3, 10.6, 11.5, 12.3

NUTRITION

- The water stops at Mile 8.1 and Mile 19.5 of the marathon, and at Mile 6.26 of the half-marathon, will have Gu (TriBerry, Strawberry-Banana, and Salted Caramel).

PORT-A-POTTIES

- Port-a-potties will be available at all water stops.



Watch for the [Terracycle](#) bins after each nutrition stop! If the timing works out with your fueling, please toss your GU wrapper into these special bins for recycling (Gu wrappers in Hiccup bins will also be sorted out for recycling. Overall, please aim for bins to reduce road litter).

Music, Entertainment, and Cheer Zones on the Course

Watch and listen for the bands, DJs, and other uniquely Athens entertainers along the course! You will also pass several special Cheer Zones, where spectators are being encouraged to gather to give you extra support.

Watch the race [Facebook Page](#) closer to race day for more details about entertainment.

HEALTH & SAFETY ON THE COURSE

MEDICAL ASSISTANCE

Fully staffed medical tents for the **Marathon** will be at Mile 8.1, Mile 10.0, Mile 16.4, Mile 19.5, and Mile 24.6 of the marathon course, and at the finish line.

Fully staffed medical tents for the **Athena Half-Marathon** will be at Mile 3.3, Mile 6.3, and Mile 11.5 of the half-marathon course, and at the finish line.

Medical tents will be clearly marked and are intended for runners who need medical assistance.

All course monitors can communicate with emergency personnel if needed. **Ask any police officer, sheriff's officer, course monitor, or race volunteer, anywhere along the course at any time, if you need medical assistance or if you have concerns about another racer on the course, or call 911 if you are aware of an emergency situation.**

AID STATIONS

Aid stations will be available at many of the water stops along the course.

- Aid stations are not intended to serve as medical tents and will not necessarily be staffed by medical personnel throughout the race. Look for aid stations if you need Vaseline or are seeking other non-medical assistance.

SAFETY FOR RUNNERS

Most of your race will use closed roads, greenway paths, or quiet neighborhood streets, but stay attentive! Police officers, sheriff's officers, and race volunteers will attempt to control traffic and will monitor all intersections, but runner safety is always a shared responsibility.

- On partially closed roads: Follow all signs and instructions from officers or race personnel. All runners must stay within the coned-off sections or lanes of partially closed roads at all times. Be aware of your surroundings, and be aware that vehicles might turn onto closed or partially closed roads.
- At intersections: Follow all signs and instructions from officers or race personnel. All runners must stay within the coned-off sections or lanes of partially closed roads at all times. Be aware of your surroundings, and be aware that vehicles will be turning at intersections.
- On unclosed neighborhood streets: Unless otherwise directed by race monitors, run on the left side of the road, facing any oncoming traffic that does appear. Use loud "CAR UP!" and "CAR BACK!" calls to help your fellow runners.
- At railroad crossings: Never race a train! Do not run around, through, or under a railroad-crossing safety arm.
- Strollers are not allowed on the race courses.
- Dogs are not allowed on the race courses.

Earbuds and Headphones: Earbuds and headphones are allowed, but all runners must be aware of their surroundings at all times. We suggest bone-conduction headphones, the transparency mode instead of noise canceling for your earbuds, or wearing only one earbud.

AFTER THE RACE

FINISH LINE & FINISHERS' CHUTE

The finish line for all races is at the corner of East Dougherty Street and Foundry Street, at the north end of the Classic Center. All runners will be directed to continue moving through an extended Finishers' Chute to keep the Finish Line clear for other runners.

WHAT TO EXPECT AFTER THE RACE

- **Plan to keep moving through the Finishers' Chute after the finish line.** The chute will guide you past a medical tent and toward medals, water, and runners-only snacks inside CrossFit Liberate's gym on East Dougherty Street.
- **Plan to gather snacks inside CrossFit Liberate's Runners Only snacks area and then keep moving.** The main gathering place for after the race is inside the Classic Center, in the indoor Post-Race Festivities and Awards Area, in Grand Ballroom 8 of the Classic Center.
- Spectators will not be allowed in the Finishers' Chute or inside CrossFit Liberate. **Plan to meet your friends and family in Grand Ballroom 8, the Post-Race Festivities and Awards Area.**

MEDALS

Medals will be available just past the finish line!

- All marathon runners, half-marathon runners, and fourth-leg relay runners who did not opt out of receiving a medal will receive a medal as they pass through the Finishers' Chute.
 - If you opted out of receiving a medal when you registered, your bib will be marked. Please do not take a medal if you opted out of receiving a medal when you registered.
- **Relay teams:** Your fourth runner will be given four medals at the finish line. If you ran an earlier leg of your team's relay, **find your fourth-leg runner inside the Classic Center, in the Post-Race Festivities and Awards Area, to get your medal.**



If you chose the no-medal option, thank you for helping reduce waste. The Classic City Marathon Association will make a donation to the Firefly Trail project in recognition of runners who opted out of receiving medals.

INDOOR POST-RACE FESTIVITIES AND AWARDS AREA

Come inside and stay warm! After you have received your medal, water, and snacks in the Finishers' Chute and in the CrossFit Liberate Runners Only area, you will probably want to go inside the Classic Center to the indoor Post-Race Festivities and Awards Area in Grand Ballroom 8. Volunteers and signs will guide you!

- Restrooms are inside the Classic Center.
- In the Post-Race Festivities and Awards Area, you will be able to enjoy a range of recovery activities, photo opportunities, music, and more, while you swap race stories with other runners or with your family and friends.
- Retrieve any gear you had checked before the race, and check on results and awards, in the same Post-Race Festivities and Awards Area.
- Your family and friends should plan to meet you in the indoor Festivities and Awards Area, in Grand Ballroom 8, inside the Classic Center.



- Composting and recycling will be available in the Classic Center, with Terracycle collection bins for hard-to-recycle wrappers (from Gu or granola bars). Volunteers will help you with what to put into each bin!
- Look for the WaterMonster and its reusable, refillable cups. Please do not take these cups home with you! They are not souvenirs.
- Thank you for your help making our races a zero-waste event!



AWARDS PRESENTATIONS & PICK-UP

9:30AM: HALF-MARATHON OVERALL AWARDS PRESENTATION

Overall awards for the Athena Half-Marathon will be presented inside the Classic Center Post-Race Festivities and Awards Area at 9:30am (top three runners in overall, masters, and grandmasters categories for male and female runners, and top three overall nonbinary runners).

12PM: MARATHON AND MARATHON RELAY AWARDS PRESENTATION

Overall awards for the lululemon Classic City Marathon and Marathon Relay will be presented inside the Classic Center Post-Race Festivities and Awards Area at 12pm (top three individual runners in overall, masters, and grandmasters categories for male and female runners; top three overall individual nonbinary runners; top three overall relay teams; and several special relay team awards).

AGE GROUP AWARDS PICK-UP

Awards for the top 3 individual finishers in 5-year age groups (starting with 19 and under and ending with 80 and older) can be picked up at the Awards Table inside the Post-Race Classic Center Festivities and Awards Area, after overall winners have been verified (there are no age group awards for the relay).



HEALTH & SAFETY FOR EVERYONE

The Classic City Marathon Association has worked closely with the Athens-Clarke County government, the Athens Clarke-County Police Department, the Athens-Clarke County Sheriff's Office, the University of Georgia Police Department, and experts in the Augusta University/University of Georgia Medical Partnership to plan for the safety of all runners and spectators.

All Athens-Clarke County and University of Georgia officers have substantial experience managing crowds in Athens for large sporting events, entertainment events, and outdoor festivals. Their goal is always that all participants and all spectators should be able to enjoy the entire event safely. Officers will be positioned throughout the downtown Athens area and along the entire race course. Please watch for them, trust them, and seek them out if you need help.

All runners and spectators must obey all instructions from Athens-Clarke County Police and Sheriff officers, from University of Georgia Police officers, and from race organizers and volunteers.

All runners and spectators must honor all barriers and coned-off areas. Spectators should avoid intruding on private property along the race routes.

Physicians, EMTs, advanced medical students, and other healthcare providers will be available at medical tents and throughout the course. All healthcare personnel have received specialized training about the needs of distance runners and about athletes' safety in winter weather.

All course monitors can communicate with emergency personnel if needed. **Ask any police officer, sheriff's officer, course monitor, or race volunteer, anywhere along the course at any time, if you need medical assistance or if you have concerns about another racer on the course, or call 911 if you are aware of an emergency situation.**

WEATHER SAFETY OR EXTREME OCCURRENCES

Our races' Co-Directors and Medical Director will be monitoring any possibility of severe winter weather or other conditions that might interfere with runners' safety. Registered runners will receive an email if updates are required before or during the race. During the race, announcements will also be made using the public address systems at the Starting Line, at the Finish Line, and inside the Classic Center.

To ensure the safety and well-being of both participants and spectators during the marathon, the lululemon Classic City Marathon will use a standard race flag system.

- If **No Flag** is flying, conditions are **All Clear**. The race can proceed normally.
- The **Yellow Flag** calls for **Caution**. Less-than-ideal conditions might require runners' or spectators' awareness, attention, or preparation.
- The **Red Flag** signals **Dangerous Conditions**. Runners should slow down and be extra cautious, or consider whether their own individual needs might lead them to leave the race. Spectators should be ready to assist under Red Flag conditions.
- The **Black Flag** indicates that the race has been **Stopped** because of extreme and unsafe conditions, necessitating immediate action from everyone involved.

This flag system allows race personnel to communicate important safety information quickly and effectively, ensuring a safe and enjoyable marathon experience for all. Watch for physical yellow, red, or black flags near the Starting Line, at the Relay Exchange Points, and at the Finish Line, and listen for flag-system announcements from security and safety personnel and volunteers along the course.



THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!

The Classic City Marathon Association is pleased to recognize the substantial assistance we have received from many groups and individuals. Thank you:

Athens-Clarke County Unified Government

Athens-Clarke County Police

Athens-Clarke County Sheriff

University of Georgia Police

Title Sponsor: lululemon

Platinum Sponsor: Summers Plumbing

Gold Sponsors: EarthFare, Piedmont Athens Healthcare

Silver Sponsors: The Prestec Sales, Inc., Pinnacle Bank, CrossFit Liberate, HIBO, Jittery Joe's, Tifosi

Bronze Sponsors: Partner Technology, Creature Comforts Brewing Co., Athens Counseling Center, Athens Road Runners, Aardvark Exterminating, University Tire, Daniels & Rothman, P.C., Cutters Pub, Brian Cathey Law, Elwood & Goetz, Core Blend Training, Silver & Archibald LLP, Jackson Electric Membership Corporation, Massage Rx of Athens, Southern Sustainability Institute, J.W. York Homes, Athens Running Company, Brown & McCook, Hadden Estate, Milestone Construction, Athens Orthopedic Clinic, NKC, Classic Race Services

Patron Sponsors: Athens-Clarke Emergency Specialists, American Pride Bank, Creed Fitness, IV Me Wellness & Aesthetics, Jackson | Spalding, Resource Partners, Joiner & Associates Realtors, Inc., Sentry Restoration, Sydney Micheletti Therapy Services LLC, Taqueria La Parrilla Mexican Restaurant, Smoothie King

Friend Sponsors: Grand Oak Chiropractic, Grahl Construction, Charles Schwab, Athens Personal Fitness, Donegal Insurance Group, Tribe Hair Company, Independent Baking Company, Manhattan Cafe, Boswell Oil Company, Fleet Feet Athens

And A Special Thank You To: All churches along the race route whose Sunday-morning traditions have been interrupted, all businesses and residents along the race route, and all of our spectators, family, friends, supporters, and runners!

SEE YOU NEXT YEAR!

The Second Annual lululemon Classic City Marathon, Athena Half-Marathon, and Classic City Marathon Relay will be held in Athens in early 2025.

See you then!