



Press contacts only:

Lucy MacNichol, 215-568-2525

Imacnichol@devinepowers.com

Randy Giancaterino, 215-683-2070

Randy.giancaterino@phila.gov

REGISTRATION FOR THE 2011 PHILADELPHIA MARATHON, PHILADELPHIA HALF MARATHON AND ROTHMAN INSTITUTE 8K OPENS APRIL 1

*Running's Best Host City Anticipates 20,000 Runners and 50,000 Spectators on Race Weekend,
November 18-20, 2011*

PHILADELPHIA (March 31, 2011) – Registration will open April 1, 2011, for the 2011 Philadelphia Marathon, Half Marathon, and Rothman Institute 8K, putting into motion plans to host more than 20,000 runners and 50,000 spectators in Philadelphia on race weekend, November 18-20, 2011. Runners can register for the three races, as well as the Verizon Kids Fun Run, online at www.philadelphiamarathon.com.

The 18th annual Philadelphia Marathon, beginning at 7:00 a.m. on Sunday, November 20, will take runners on a 26.2-mile course through some of the city's most picturesque and historic areas, starting and finishing with the Philadelphia Museum of Art as the backdrop. The Philadelphia Half Marathon, also stepping off at 7:00 a.m. on Sunday, November 20, will follow the same course as the first 13.1 miles of the Philadelphia Marathon. The Rothman Institute 8K will be held at 7:30 a.m. on Saturday, November 19. All three races are USA Track & Field-sanctioned. Each starts and finishes at 22nd Street and the Benjamin Franklin Parkway, making the courses also friendly to spectators. Last year, runners came from all 50 states and 40 countries, attracted to the course not only for its scenery but because it is relatively flat and fast, with strong crowd support, including at official race cheer zones.

The City of Philadelphia is the host for the November 18-20 Race Weekend, which also includes a free two-day Health and Fitness Expo, Friday-Saturday, November 18-19; a ticketed Pasta Dinner on Saturday, November 19; and, the Verizon Kids Fun Run, a short-distance, non-competitive run designed especially for kids ages 4-12 and scheduled for 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, November 19.

Early-bird registration, which continues through April 15, is \$85 for the Philadelphia Marathon; \$65 for the Philadelphia Half Marathon; and \$30 for the Rothman Institute 8K. The complete entry fee schedule is as follows:

Philadelphia Marathon, 7:00 a.m., Sunday, November 20

April 1-15 \$85

April 16 – 30 \$95

May 1 – 31 \$110
June 1 – Nov 1* \$125
*or when registration reaches its capacity

Philadelphia Half Marathon, 7:00 a.m., Sunday, November 20

April 1- 15 \$65
April 16 – 30 \$75
May 1 – 31 \$85
June 1 – Nov 1* \$100
*or when registration reaches its capacity

Rothman Institute 8K, 7:30 a.m., Saturday, November 19

April 1 - 15 \$30
April 16 – 30 \$35
May 1 – 31 \$40
June 1 – Nov 1* \$45
*or when registration reaches its capacity

According to Philadelphia Marathon officials, approximately 98 percent of runners registered online last year, however, mail-in registration is also available for a \$12 processing fee. Runners can download forms from the marathon Web site, www.philadelphiamarathon.com.

Race packets are available for pick-up at the free Health and Fitness Expo, held in Hall A of the Pennsylvania Convention Center, 12th and Arch streets, from Noon-9:00 p.m. on Friday, November 18 and from 10:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. on Saturday, November 19 . Marathon and half marathon registrants will receive an official long-sleeve tech shirt, race goodie bag and, at the finish line, a finisher’s medal; 8K registrants will receive a short-sleeve cotton T-shirt and race goodie bag. All race packets must be picked up in advance as no race packets will be distributed on race day. (Race packets for Saturday’s 8K must, of course, be picked up on Friday.)

Registration for the Verizon Kids Fun Run, 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, November 19, is also available online, as well as on-site at 9:00 a.m. on the day of the run. The entry fee in advance and on-site is \$15. All participants receive a race bib and finisher’s medal.

New this year, marathoners and half marathoners seeking training advice will have the opportunity to sign up for the Runner’s World Challenge, a training program offered by Runner’s World magazine, that offers running plans and the guidance and advice of five running coaches. For more information, visit www.runnersworld.com.

“From a high-five with Mayor Michael Nutter at the start line until you triumphantly raise your arms high in the air Rocky-style at the finish, the Philadelphia Marathon guarantees runners and their guests a great Race Weekend experience,” said Melanie Johnson, executive director of Philadelphia Marathon Race Weekend. “Our runner-friendly course, enthusiastic spectators, more than 2,000 friendly volunteers, community involvement, special deals and discounts around the city, weekend-long activities for the entire family, and now our participation in the Runner’s World Challenge, are all part of making Philadelphia ‘Running’s Best Host City’.”

Running's best host city welcomes more than 20,000 athletes to Philadelphia for a family-friendly series of events over Philadelphia Marathon Race Weekend, November 18-20, 2011. Produced and hosted by the City of Philadelphia, Marathon Race Weekend features four races in a city "born to run" -- the 18th annual Philadelphia Marathon and Philadelphia Half Marathon, preceded by Saturday's Rothman Institute 8K and the Verizon Kids Fun Run. Other activities to welcome runners, families, friends, spectators, businesses and residents include a free two-day Health & Fitness Expo; a free course map complete with retail discounts and promotions; more than 20 spectator cheer zones; and a pre-race pasta party. Runners pass many of Philadelphia's famous attractions on the swift and scenic USATF-certified course, which is a Boston qualifier. Take the first step to experiencing 26.2 miles of fun, beauty, history and excitement by visiting www.philadelphiamarathon.com.

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