



*2026 Race Weekend*

# LEAVE YOUR LEGACY

**CHAMPAIGN-URBANA & SAVOY**

April 23-25, 2026

Marathon • Half Marathon • 10K • 5K  
Mile • Youth Run • Eight I-Challenges

**ILLINOISMARATHON.COM**



# 2026 MEDIA GUIDE



# Letter from **Christie Clinic**

# Letter from **the Governor**

## Greetings!

On behalf of Christie Clinic, I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to everyone who helped make this year's Christie Clinic Illinois Race Weekend such a memorable and inspiring event. As the title sponsor, we are honored to support a tradition that brings our community together to celebrate health, perseverance, and the spirit of leaving a lasting legacy.

This event is about far more than crossing the finish line. It's about the legacy created through every mile run, every volunteer hour given, and every cheer shared along the course. The dedication of our race organizers, the commitment of our volunteers, and the enthusiasm of participants and spectators are what transform this event into something truly meaningful for our entire community.

At Christie Clinic, we believe that lasting impact is built through connection, support, and a shared commitment to healthier lives. The Christie Clinic Illinois Race Weekend reflects those values and reminds us that each of us has the opportunity to leave a positive mark on those around us.

We are proud to support an event that inspires individuals and families to challenge themselves, support one another, and create traditions that endure for generations. Thank you to everyone who contributes their time, energy, and passion to make this weekend possible.

Together, we are leaving a legacy of health, community, and perseverance.

Zach Sehy, JD  
Chief Operating Officer Christie Clinic



Zach Sehy, JD  
Christie Clinic  
Chief Operating Officer



For more information on  
Christie Clinic, please visit:  
[www.christieclinic.com](http://www.christieclinic.com).  
You can also follow us on  
Facebook and Twitter.



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
207 STATE HOUSE  
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62706

**JB PRITZKER**  
GOVERNOR

March 30, 2026

Christie Clinic Illinois Race Weekend  
2012 Sunview Drive  
Champaign, IL 61821

Greetings,

As Governor of the State of Illinois, I am pleased to welcome everyone gathered for the 17th Annual Christie Clinic Illinois Race Weekend. This event offers an exciting opportunity for everyone to join with fellow members of your association and engage in healthy competition.

After countless hours of training, years of sacrifice, and a depth of dedication, your aspirations have now become a reality. As you reflect on your achievements, I encourage you to plan for the future, building on the successes of the past. I commend the work you have done to make Illinois a stronger and more enjoyable place to live.

On behalf of the people of Illinois, I offer my best wishes for an enjoyable and memorable occasion.

Sincerely,

Governor JB Pritzker

# Letter from **the Mayors**

# Letter from **the Director**



### **Champaign, Urbana, and Savoy Greeting Letter**

On behalf of the Cities of Champaign and Urbana and the Village of Savoy, it is our pleasure to welcome all of the runners, volunteers, staff, and spectators who have gathered here in our community for the 17th annual Christie Clinic Illinois Race Weekend.

For nearly two decades, this event has been leading the way in innovation and inclusivity. This year, you'll see this on display with the new "Start Without a Shot" initiative at each race and the return of the Welcome Wave during the Busey Bank Illinois Youth Run. These, and so many more features, make Christie Clinic Illinois Race Weekend stand out in our community, our state, and our nation.


Both locals and visitors alike will be able to take in the beauty of central Illinois and all that it has to offer. All throughout the weekend, local businesses and organizations will see impacts from this annual tradition. Since its inception, the event has donated \$1.958 million to charities in the community and has generated an estimated \$5 million in economic impact annually.

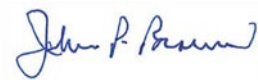
We are grateful to the organizers of the Christie Clinic Illinois Race Weekend for the great value the event brings to our community while improving the overall well-being of those who participate.

We want to wish you all the best of luck as you reach your goals during race weekend. May it be a happy, healthy celebration of all that makes Champaign, Urbana, and Savoy great!

Signed,

  
Deborah Frank Feinen  
Mayor of Champaign

  
DeShawn Williams  
Mayor of Urbana

  
John P. Brown  
Mayor of Savoy

### **Welcome, media friends!**

Whether this is your first time covering our event or you are returning to cover the Christie Clinic Illinois Race Weekend again, we are grateful for your participation. The media's contributions are instrumental in positioning the athletes and all affiliated races for success and we thank you for your time, your coverage, and your talent.

Since the event's inception in 2009, the Christie Clinic Illinois Race Weekend has become known in the running world for its flawless organization; fast, flat course; enthusiastic crowds; and friendly, welcoming volunteers. Once again, we are thrilled to welcome thousands of runners, volunteers, sponsors, and media members to Champaign-Urbana and Savoy.

The intent of this media guide is to provide you with the important information you need to successfully cover all the races and events, in addition to the website at [www.illinoismarathon.com](http://www.illinoismarathon.com). We invite you to also contact our media director, Meg Treat, at 805-766-1500 or [meg@treatpublicrelations.com](mailto:meg@treatpublicrelations.com).

Arriving on Thursday or Friday? Please join us in the hospitality room at the Activities & Recreation Center (ARC) in MP1 and enjoy delicious food sponsored by Jimmy John's, Harvest Market, Parlor Doughnuts, and Columbia Street Roastery.

On behalf of everyone affiliated with the Christie Clinic Illinois Race Weekend, we extend our most sincere appreciation for your continued support and commitment.





Jan Seeley  
Race Director  
Christie Clinic Illinois Race Weekend

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Media Contact  
Meg Treat  
805-766-1500  
[meg@treatpublicrelations.com](mailto:meg@treatpublicrelations.com)

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# Event History

# Media Fact Sheet

## Christie Clinic Illinois Race Weekend



The Christie Clinic Illinois Race Weekend was conceived in 2007 to inspire and promote health and wellness in central Illinois. The event was started by Mark Knutson of Go Far Events, who at the time directed a similar race in his hometown of Fargo, North Dakota.

In 2009, the inaugural Christie Clinic Illinois Race Weekend featured 9,715 participants from 42 states and 6 countries. The participation was double what Knutson and his associates were expecting for the event's first year. In 2010, Race Weekend continued to impress, with 14,689 participants.

After the second running, a group of local community members and title sponsor Christie Clinic purchased the event from Knutson. Jan Seeley serves as director, working with a staff of 10 and a committee of 55.

Race organizers continue to nurture the race, which has had almost 230,000 registrations in the first 16 years. Since its inception, the Christie Clinic Illinois Race Weekend has donated \$1.958 million to charities in the community and generated an estimated \$5 million in economic impact annually.

Christie Clinic Illinois Race Weekend continues its commitment to community engagement and inclusivity in 2026 with charitable efforts like donating running shoes and socks to local youth through Kicks for CU Kids, free Hands-Only CPR trainings leading up to and during race weekend, scholarship entries from the Flow Forward Fund sponsored by Illinois American Water, accessibility features for Deaf and Blind athletes implemented throughout the event, and adopting the Start Without A Shot sound for the race start.

Each year the owners, sponsors, committee members, and members of the Champaign-Urbana and Savoy communities strive to make the Christie Clinic Illinois Race Weekend a memorable experience for participants, volunteers, and spectators alike!

## Race Weekend Highlights

- Christie Clinic Illinois Race Weekend brings the best of both worlds to its participants: world-class features of big-city running events in the welcoming, small-town community setting of Champaign-Urbana and Savoy. The 17th annual Christie Clinic Illinois Race Weekend features a marathon, half marathon, 10K, 5K, mile, youth run, and eight multi-event challenges.
- New multievent i-Challenges this year include the Micro i-Challenge, combining the Michael Hogue Team Mile and the Christie Clinic Illinois 5K, and the Nano i-Challenge, connecting the Michael Hogue Team Mile and the Busey Bank Illinois Youth Run.
- The Christie Clinic Illinois Race Weekend 2026 theme, "Leave Your Legacy," was chosen by organizers to celebrate individual accomplishments by all who take part in the weekend and how, together, they create an enduring impact in the community.
- Christie Clinic Illinois Race Weekend is home to one of the most unique finish lines in the United States. Runners and walkers complete their journey at the 50-yard line of the historic Gies Memorial Stadium.
- This year's medals feature a unique design never-before-seen at any other race: a time wheel that allows participants to dial in their exact finish time in hours | mins | seconds! The medal itself resembles a pocket watch that, once open, reveals the "Leave Your Legacy" theme on one side and a time wheel on the other, providing an opportunity for

participants to enhance their race day memorabilia with not only a medal to acknowledge their great accomplishment but also their race time!



## Hands-Only CPR Training Initiative

- During the 2024 Christie Clinic Illinois Half Marathon, 45-year-old Christie Clinic surgeon Rafael Ruggieri suffered a cardiac arrest while running in Meadowbrook Park. Rafael survived because of the exceptional care he received that day, which began with high-quality CPR by his son, Isaac, who was running with him that day, and three other runners, who also knew Hands-Only CPR.
- The Christie Clinic Illinois Race Weekend team wanted more runners, volunteers, and community members to know how to perform this life-saving skill, which is why they created a CPR training program in 2025, and have continued it into 2026.
- The Christie Clinic Illinois Race Weekend team is offering multiple Hands-Only CPR training sessions leading up to Race Weekend, as well as one mega session on the Friday of Race Weekend, FREE of charge and open to anyone. Preregistration is required. Register at [illinoismarathon.com](http://illinoismarathon.com)



# Schedule of Events

# 2026 Christie Clinic Illinois Race Weekend By the Numbers

## Prerace Events

### Packet Pickup

Located in Gym 2 of the Activities and Recreation Center (ARC) at the University of Illinois, 201 East Peabody Drive, Champaign.

Thursday, April 23, from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Friday, April 24, from 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

### Health & Fitness Expo

Located in Gym 1 of the ARC

Thursday, April 23, 4:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Friday, April 24, 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

[Learn more about the expo on page 11.](#)

## Race Day

### Race Times

On Thursday, the mile event begins on First St., outside Grange Grove, and ends near Green and Neil Sts. On Friday, the 5K begins at Oak St., south of St. Mary's Road, and finishes in Gies Memorial Stadium. The Saturday races begin on First Street and St. Mary's Road.

**Mile**—Thursday, April 23, 7:30 p.m. wave start

**5K**—Friday, April 24, 7:30 p.m. wave start

**Marathon**—Saturday, April 25, 7:33 a.m. wave start

**Half Marathon**—Saturday, April 25, 7:33 a.m. wave start

**10K Run/Walk**—Saturday, April 25, 8:00 a.m.

**Youth Run**—Saturday, April 25, 3:00 p.m., Gies Memorial Stadium

All races but the mile event finish on the 50-yard line of Gies Memorial Stadium.

### FREE Special Events on Race Weekend

**4th Mile, April 24**—In conjunction with the Christie Clinic Illinois 5K Run & Walk, this kickoff event features food trucks, a beer tent, and the music of Vivacious Audio. 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. just outside Gies Memorial Stadium on Kirby Avenue.

**Bagel and coffee bar, April 25**—Located on First St., north of the start line. 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m., sponsored by Einstein Bros. Bagels and Columbia Street Roastery.

**Meijer 27th-Mile Celebrate Victory Bash, April 25**—Hosted by Experience Champaign-Urbana. Located on Kirby Avenue, between First St. and Fourth St. 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Music by Big Guns, food, beer, and family fun for all.

### Total entrants, as of April 18, 2026. We expect a full sellout.

Marathon: 1,287  
 Half Marathon: 3,242  
 10K Run/Walk: 1,804  
 5K Run/Walk: 4,015  
 Mile: 347  
 Youth Run: 340  
 I-Challenge entrants: 694  
 Triple I-Challenge entrants: 204  
 Total registrations as of April 18, 2026: 11,025

**Number of states:** 43 + DC

**Number of countries represented:** 9

**Percentage of entrants from Illinois:** 90%

**Gender breakdown:** 54% Female, 46% Male

**Number of volunteers:** 2,000

**Number of finisher medals created:** 11,415—Each finisher in every race is awarded a unique, race-specific medal.

**Number of vendors in the Health & Fitness Expo:** 42

**Hotels:** Nearly every hotel room in Champaign-Urbana is booked.

### 2025 winning times

Men's half marathon: Curtis Ecksteint—1:05:25  
 Women's half marathon: Lanni Marchant—1:12:45  
 Men's marathon: Jaime Marcos—2:23:23  
 Women's marathon: Tera Moody—2:47:21

### Stats of Note

**\$5 million** total annual local economic impact of the Christie Clinic Illinois Race Weekend

**155** porta-potties

**30** different musical groups performing on the course on race weekend

**20,000** bottles of water at the finish on Friday and Saturday

**8,784** GU packets (energy gel)

**120,000** cups (73,000 compostable)

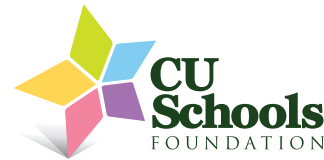
**Date of the 2027 Race Weekend:** April 22–24, 2027



# The Race Gives Back

# Health & Fitness Expo

Some of the charities that received fundraising dollars from the race in 2025.



- American Cancer Society
- American Heart Association
- Big Brothers Big Sisters of America
- Boy Scouts of America
- Champaign County CASA
- Champaign County Humane Society
- Courage Connection
- Crisis Nursery
- CU at Home
- Cunningham Children's Home
- CU Schools Foundation
- Daily Bread Soup Kitchen
- Developmental Services Center
- Don Moyer Boys & Girls Club
- DREAM
- Eastern Illinois Foodbank
- Embracing Mental Health Foundation
- Empty Tomb

- Family Service of Champaign Co.
- Feeding Our Kids
- Habitat for Humanity
- Kids Foundation of Rantoul
- Kiwanis Club of Champaign-Urbana
- Leukemia & Lymphoma Society
- Mahomet Area Youth Club
- Mercy's Refuge
- Moore's Rescue Ranch
- Pace Inc. Center for Independent Living
- Prairie Dragon Paddlers
- Promise Healthcare Frances Nelson
- Stephen's Family YMCA
- UIUC Habitat for Humanity Campus Chapter
- Uniting Pride
- University of Illinois Pre-Dental Club
- Urbana Neighborhood Connection Center



Thursday, April 23, 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., and Friday, April 24, 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Body n' Sole presents the Christie Clinic Race Weekend Health & Fitness Expo, sponsored by the Village of Savoy. The expo will take place at the University of Illinois Activities and Recreation Center (ARC) and feature national and local vendors, as well as national organizations and representatives from prominent running events.

**Vendor list**

- |                                 |                                        |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| Alzheimer's Association         | F&S TDM                                |
| Athletico Physical Therapy      | FlipBelt                               |
| Belleville Main Street Marathon | HealthSource Chiropractic of Champaign |
| Body n' Sole Sports             | Healthy Champaign County               |
| Busey Bank                      | Hello Fresh/Factor Meals               |
| Campus Recreation               | Human Kinetics                         |
| Cancer Center at Illinois       | Kennekuk Road Runners                  |
| Capital Vacations               | Leaf Filter Gutter Protection          |
| Carle Health                    | Life Goes On                           |
| Champaign Park District         | Limitless Male Medical Clinic          |
| Christie Clinic                 | Optimize U - Champaign                 |
| Experience Champaign-Urbana     | Orangetheory Fitness                   |

- Perspire Sauna Studio Champaign
- Prairie Dragon Paddlers
- Quad Cities Marathon
- Quad-City Times Bix 7
- REAL TIME Pain Relief
- Renewal by Anderson
- Road Runners Club of America
- Rosecrance Behavioral Health
- Run Madtown
- Run Mahomet
- Sanofi Community Alliance Network
- Savoy Recreation Center
- Shoe Said Project
- The Pets Table
- Trp Corey Thompsen Memorial 5K
- Walk, Run & Roll with Team Noah
- Vintage Gear
- Vital Education and Supply



# MILE Run

The Michael Hogue Team Mile starts on First St., outside the Grange Grove Gates, north of Kirby Ave., heads north on First St., and then west on Green St., finishing just east of the intersection of Green and Neil.



## Date and Time

The Mile starts in waves at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday evening, April 23.

## Age Groups

Top 5 male elite	20-29	60-69
Top 5 female elite	30-39	70 & over
12 & under	40-49	
13-19	50-59	

## Awards

- Three-deep awards. Age-group awards are based on chip time.
- All awards will be mailed to the winners after race weekend.



## Goodies

All Mile entrants will receive a 16-ounce logoed silicone cup. Mile finishers also receive an awesome challenge coin at the finish line, and there's postrace party at The City Center.

## Results from 2025

### Top 5 Male Finishers

1. Will O'Brien: 4:16
2. Easton Rosen: 4:23
3. Alex Herrera: 4:33
4. Anthony Morgan: 4:37
5. Alexander Gomez: 4:54

### Top 5 Female Finishers

1. Samantha Mabry: 5:20
2. Søren Warland: 5:51
3. Rayleigh Reach: 5:54
4. Marjeli Schout: 6:13
5. Reagan Tengwall: 6:19

# 5K Run/Walk

The 5K Run/Walk starts at Oak St., south of St. Mary's Road, runs through campus, and finishes on the 50-yard line of Gies Memorial Stadium.



## Date and Time

The 5K starts in waves at 7:30 p.m. on Friday evening, April 24.

## Age Groups

10 & under	30-34	60-64
11-12	35-39	65-69
13-14	40-44	70-74
15-19	45-49	75-79
20-24	50-54	80+
25-29	55-59	

## Awards

The top three male and top three female runners will receive overall awards. These runners are not eligible for age group awards.

In addition to the overall awards, there will be first-, second-, and third-place awards for each of the age groups listed above. Age group awards are based on chip time. All awards will be mailed to the winners after race weekend.



## Goodies

- 5K entrants receive a unisex technical shirt, drawstring backpack, and more.
- Finishers get a great medal, delicious food, and one beverage at the 4th-Mile Street Fest.

## Results from 2025

### Top 5 Male Finishers

1. Kyle Hummel: 17:07
2. Lane Weber: 17:19
3. Raymond Zhang: 17:25
4. Ray Jones: 17:41
5. Branden Ritter: 17:46

### Top 5 Female Finishers

1. Samantha Mabry: 19:32
2. Rachel Brewer Kamps: 20:20
3. Glorianna Esarco: 20:47
4. Tonya Nunn: 21:40
5. Marjeli Schout: 21:50

# 10K Run/Walk

# 10K Run/Walk

The **10K Run/Walk** starts near the State Farm Center, runs south to Hazelwood, to Oak, to Gregory to First Street and through campustown and roads adjacent to campus, and finishes on the 50-yard line of Gies Memorial Stadium.



## Date and Time

The 10K starts in waves at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, April 25.

## Age Groups

12 & under	35-39	65-69
13-14	40-44	70-74
15-19	45-49	75-79
20-24	50-54	80+
25-29	55-59	
30-34	60-64	

## Awards

The top three male and top three female runners will receive overall awards. These runners are not eligible for age group awards.

In addition to the overall awards, there will be first-, second-, and third-place awards for each of the age groups listed above. Age group awards are based on chip time. All awards will be mailed to the winners after race weekend.

## Goodies

- 10K entrants receive a unisex technical shirt, draw-string backpack, and more.
- Finishers get a great medal, a keepsake Heatsheet, delicious food, and one beverage at the Meijer 27th-Mile Celebrate Victory Bash.



## Results from 2025

### Top 5 Male Finishers

1. Brian Bundren: 35:16
2. Alexander Gomez: 36:01
3. Chris Owen: 36:57
4. Lane Weber: 37:25
5. DJ BJ Clark: 37:52

### Top 5 Female Finishers

1. Trish Black: 39:42
2. Zuzanna Kruszewski: 41:05
3. Kathy Martensen: 45:29
4. Natalie Malinowski: 46:03
5. Jesse Mae Otney: 46:41

# Half Marathon

# Half Marathon

The **Half Marathon** starts near the State Farm Center, runs through campus, loops through Urbana, runs back through campus, and finishes on the 50-yard line of Gies Memorial Stadium.



## Date and Time

The half marathon starts at 7:33 a.m. (wave start) on Saturday, April 25, at the same time as the marathon. The wheelchair half marathon starts at 7:31 a.m.

The course will be closed to traffic for participants who are on pace to finish in 3:30 or less (roughly 16 minutes per mile). Slower participants may continue after traffic is allowed onto the course, but they do so at their own risk and must follow pedestrian statutes.

## Age Groups

12-14	35-39	60-64
15-19	40-44	65-69
20-24	45-49	70-74
25-29	50-54	75-79
30-34	55-59	80+

Note: Half marathon participants must be at least 12 years old on race day.

## Goodies

- Half marathon entrants receive a drawstring backpack; a high-quality short-sleeve, gender-specific technical shirt; and more.
- Finishers get a great medal, a keepsake Heatsheet, delicious food, and one beverage at the Meijer 27th-Mile Celebrate Victory Bash.

## Awards

Prize money will be given out to the top three female and male finishers. Prize money winners are not eligible for individual awards.

Prize money awards are based on gun time. See the chart below.

Place	Overall Male	Overall Female
1	\$750	\$750
2	\$500	\$500
3	\$300	\$300

\$100 bonus for breaking the overall record while also winning the race: 1:03:50 (men), 1:12:45 (women).

In addition to the prize money, there will be first-, second-, and third-place awards for each age group. Age group awards are based on chip time and will be mailed to winners after race weekend.



## Results from 2025

### Top 5 Male Finishers

1. Curtis Eckstein: 1:05:25
2. Phil Parrot-Migas: 1:06:22
3. Charles Parrish: 1:07:09
4. Jack Roberts: 1:08:14
5. Bram Osterhout: 1:08:35

### Top 5 Female Finishers

1. Lanni Marchant: 1:12:45
2. Sara Dietz: 1:23:59
3. Chelsea Thompsen: 1:24:15
4. Jordyn Cummins: 1:24:16
5. Maryjeanne Gilbert: 1:27:01

# Marathon

# Marathon

The **Marathon** starts near the State Farm Center, runs through campus, loops through Urbana, back through campus, out into Champaign, south to Savoy, and then finishes on the 50-yard line of Gies Memorial Stadium.



## Date and Time

The marathon starts at 7:33 a.m. (wave start) on Saturday, April 25, at the same time as the half marathon.

The course will be closed to traffic for participants who are on pace to finish in 6:00 or less (roughly 13:43 minutes per mile). Slower participants may continue after traffic is allowed onto the course, but they do so at their own risk and must follow pedestrian statutes.

## Age Groups

17-19	40-44	65-69
20-24	45-49	70-74
25-29	50-54	75-79
30-34	55-59	80+
35-39	60-64	

Note: Marathon participants must be at least 17 years old on race day.

## Goodies

- Marathon entrants will receive a drawstring backpack; a high-quality short-sleeve, gender-specific technical shirt; and more.
- Finishers get a great medal, a fleece blanket, a keepsake Heatsheet, food and drink after the race, and one beverage at the Meijer 27th-Mile Celebrate Victory Bash.

## Awards

Prize money will be given out to the top three female and male participants. Prize money will also be awarded for the top three female and male masters participants (full marathon only). Prize money winners are not eligible for individual awards. A masters runner placing in the top three overall is awarded the place and prize money in the overall race and not the masters race.

Place	Overall Male	Overall Female
1	\$2000	\$2000
2	\$1000	\$1000
3	\$500	\$500

Masters	Overall Male	Overall Female
1	\$300	\$300
2	\$200	\$200
3	\$100	\$100

We will award \$250 each to the first male and first female finisher who resides in Illinois. This is bonus prize money. If an overall winner also resides in Illinois, he/she will collect an extra \$250 in prize money.

The men's marathon course record is 2:18:11 and the women's is 2:36:51. A bonus of \$200 will be awarded to the athlete who breaks the course record AND wins the race.

In addition to the prize money, there will be first, second, and third place awards for each of the age groups listed above. Age group awards are based on chip time and will be mailed to winners after race weekend.



## Results from 2025

### Top 5 Male Finishers

1. Jamie Marcos: 2:22:23
2. Martin O'Connell: 2:26:04
3. Caleb Kerr: 2:26:09
4. Jonnathan Fernandez: 2:30:34
5. Bailey Roybal: 2:33:04

### Top 5 Female Finishers

1. Terra Moody: 2:47:21
2. Jessica Rockafellow: 2:50:11
3. Alicia Hudelson: 2:58:48
4. Stephanie Runyon-Thomas: 3:00:01
5. Alexis Dorsey: 3:00:38

# Elite Athletes

This year, the Christie Clinic Illinois Marathon has the honor of welcoming two-time winner **Jaime Marcos** as he attempts win number 3! Jaime teaches PE at Dr. Howard Elementary School here in Champaign. Jaime finished in first place the last two years, beating out a strong field both years. This year, Jaime has been plagued with several injuries, but managed to run the Indy Monumental Half Marathon last November in 1:05:50 (5:02 min. miles), coming in 25th place. He also completed the Shamrock Shuffle 8K in March of this year in 24:09, coming in 31st. We welcome Jaime back, and wish him a great run again this year.



**Jaime Marcos**

Bryce Merriman, from Kansas City, is another top competitor in the marathon this year. He ran both track and cross-country on scholarship for Wichita State University, but experienced stress fractures that took him out of running. Juggling medical school and a new daughter, he recently got back into marathoning, running three marathons in one month in 2025, coming in 1st, 2nd and 3rd place, respectively in those races. We all wish Bryce the best of luck with his run in C-U on April 25. Saturday.

Casey Wilson is our top female competitor in the marathon race. She lives in Springfield, MO. She ran cross-country and track at Missouri State University as an undergraduate, and ran indoor/outdoor track at Texas State University while earning her Master's Degree. (She was All-conference in the steeplechase and indoor 5000M while there.) Casey ran the Tokyo Marathon in March '25 in 2:51, and finished the Chicago, Berlin, and New York City marathons all in under 3 hours. Her love of running extends to others as a Girls on the Run coach, and she is active in the Springfield running community. We look forward to seeing Casey continue her marathon success here in C-U.

Both the marathon and half marathon elite fields include some local runners. In the marathon, we welcome Andrew Pilat, a former teammate of Jaime Marcos at Eastern Illinois University. In the half marathon, towing the line will be Champaign residents Sarah Carr and Morgan Johnson. Former St. Joseph, IL, prep star and University of Tennessee All-American **Chelsea (Blaase) Thompsen** is also running the half marathon. In 2025, she finished third in the women's half marathon in 1:24:15.



**Chelsea (Blaase) Thompsen**

# Youth Run

The **Youth Run** course is roughly 1K (slightly longer than half a mile), with a finish at the 50-yard line of Gies Memorial Stadium.



## Date and Time

The race starts at 3:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 25.

## Youth Run Heats

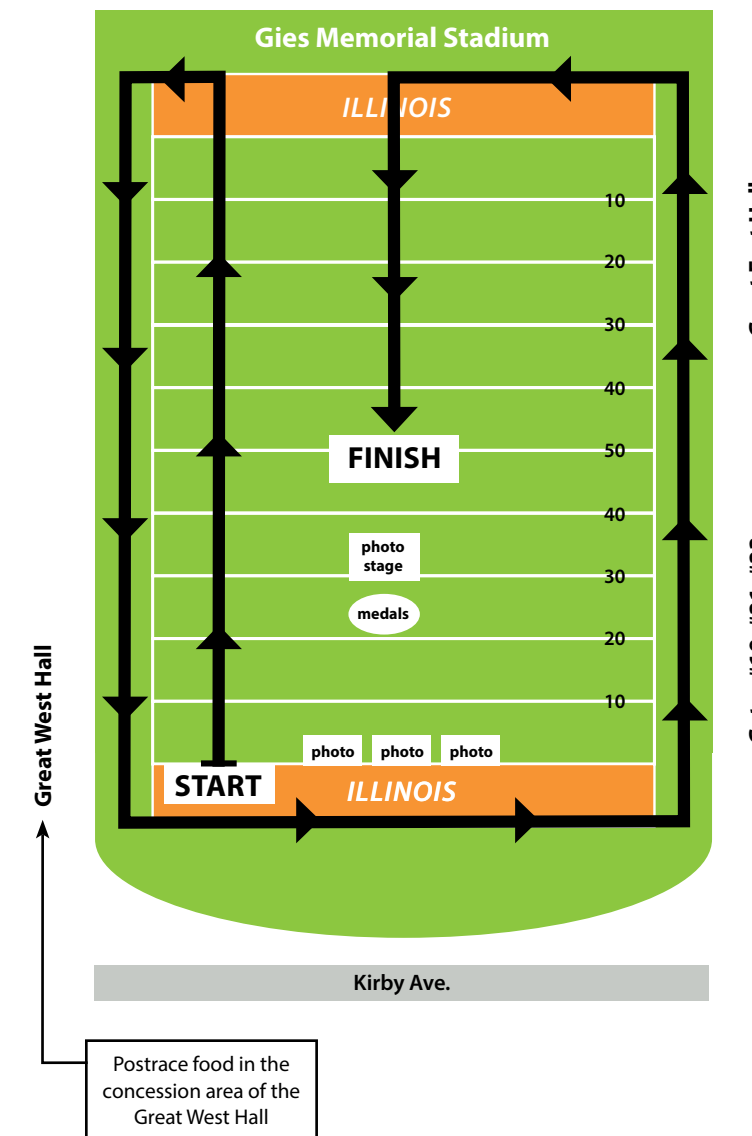
The Youth Run will be run in multiple heats. We will offer the "Welcome Wave"—a heat tailored for families and participants with disabilities. This Welcome Wave heat will be the first wave, immediately following the national anthem, minimizing wait time and the total duration of participation. After the Welcome Wave, the remaining heats will be run according to grade. There is also a sibling heat. The Youth Run is for children fifth grade and under. Parents/guardians/companions can run with their youth run entrant.

## Goodies

Youth run entrants receive an awesome T-shirt and a drawstring backpack. Finishers receive a finisher's medal and delicious food.

## Charitable Partner

The CU Schools Foundation is a Charitable Partner of the Christie Clinic Illinois Race Weekend. A portion of every Busey Illinois Youth Run entry will be donated to CU Schools Foundation.



# The I-Challenge Events

# Mark Your Calendar

Runners who complete multiple events over Race Weekend are **I-Challengers** and receive extra swag and bonus medals. Below are the eight Christie Clinic I-Challenge events.

CHRISTIE CLINIC  
**iCHALLENGE**  
FULL

CHRISTIE CLINIC  
**iCHALLENGE**  
HALF

CHRISTIE CLINIC  
**iCHALLENGE**  
MINI

CHRISTIE CLINIC  
**iCHALLENGE**  
MICRO

CHRISTIE CLINIC  
**iCHALLENGE**  
NANO

## Events

There are eight I-Challenge events:

- **Christie Clinic Full I-Challenge**  
= 5K + marathon
- **Christie Clinic Half I-Challenge**  
= 5K + half marathon
- **Christie Clinic Mini i-Challenge**  
= 5K + 10K
- **Christie Clinic Micro i-Challenge**  
= Mile + 5K
- **Christie Clinic Nano i-Challenge**  
= Mile + Youth Run
- **Triple Full I-Challenge**  
= Mile + 5K + marathon
- **Triple Half I-Challenge**  
= Mile + 5K + half marathon
- **Triple Mini I-Challenge**  
= Mile + 5K + 10K

## Goodies

- Multiple shirts and medals.



# 18th Annual 2027 Christie Clinic Illinois Race Weekend

Thursday,  
April 22,  
to Saturday,  
April 24



Marathon • Half Marathon  
10K • 5K • Youth Run • Mile  
Eight I-Challenge options

# Sponsors

# Sponsors

## Title Sponsors



Business | Wealth Management | Personal

## Gold Sponsors



## Silver Sponsors



## Bronze Sponsors



## Mile Sponsors



Official Host: EXPERIENCE CHAMPAIGN URBANA

## Hotel Partners

- Allerton Park & Retreat Center
- AmericInn by Wyndham
- Best Western Paradise Inn
- Best Western Plus
- Best Western University Inn
- Cobblestone Hotel
- Comfort Suites Urbana-Champaign
- Country Inn & Suites by Radisson
- Courtyard by Marriott Champaign
- Drury Inn
- Fairfield Inn & Suites by Marriott
- Hampton Inn by Hilton Champaign Southwest
- Hampton Inn Champaign/Urbana
- Hilton Garden Inn Champaign/Urbana
- Holiday Inn
- Home2 Suites by Hilton Champaign/Urbana
- Homewood Suites by Hilton Champaign-Urbana
- Hotel Royer
- Hyatt Place Champaign/Urbana
- iHotel
- Illini Union Hotel
- Residence Inn by Marriott Champaign
- Rodeway Inn Urbana
- Champaign University Area
- TownePlace Suites Urbana Champaign
- Wyndham Garden Urbana Champaign

## Special Thanks

**Special thanks to:** Blue Crew Law Enforcement Motorcycle Club, Champaign Park District, Fagen Scooter, Champaign-Urbana Mass Transit District, Chemical Maintenance Inc., Cross Construction, Kingdom Lawn and Lighting, Marissa Willison, St. John's Lutheran Church, Savoy Recreation Center, Stone Creek Church, the cities of Champaign and Urbana, the Village of Savoy, the University of Illinois, Urbana Park District, Willard Airport, and all the awesome volunteers and fans of Race Weekend!

**Special thanks to these organizations for providing shelter on the race course:** Amber Pointe Recreation Center, Champaign Church of Christ, Champaign Country Club, First Baptist Church, Good Shepherd Lutheran, Hayes Center, HERE Apartments, Hilton Garden Inn, Illinois Terminal, Lincoln Square Mall, Meijer (Urbana), Gies Memorial Stadium, Natural Resources Building, RE/MAX Realty, Savoy Recreation Center, Springer Cultural Center, Stone Creek Church, Thomas Paine Elementary, University of Illinois Student Union, Urbana Foursquare Church, and Urbana High School.



**LEAVE  
YOUR  
LEGACY**



**ILLINOIS**

*2026 Race Weekend*