

# Race Day Reminders for Welcome Wave Families

## What is the Welcome Wave?

The Welcome Wave is a heat tailored for families and participants with disabilities. Participants in the Welcome Wave enjoy a fun race experience with additional support in the race environment and from our dedicated volunteers. This Welcome Wave heat will be the first wave of the Youth Run, immediately following the national anthem, minimizing wait time and the total duration of participation. A caregiver race bib is provided for each Welcome Wave participant. Grade restrictions do not apply to this heat. After the Welcome Wave, the remaining heats will be run according to grade.

## Getting inside Gies Memorial Stadium

If entering Gies Memorial Stadium through the Great East Hall for the Youth Run doesn't work for a Welcome Wave family, they can enter by walking to First Street and then turning on Irwin Drive to the overhead garage at the bottom of the little hill on Irwin Drive at the northwest corner and then right into the Stadium, across the Stadium floor to the southeast corner where families will gather. Please be in the Stadium by 2:30 p.m.

## Welcome Wave Route

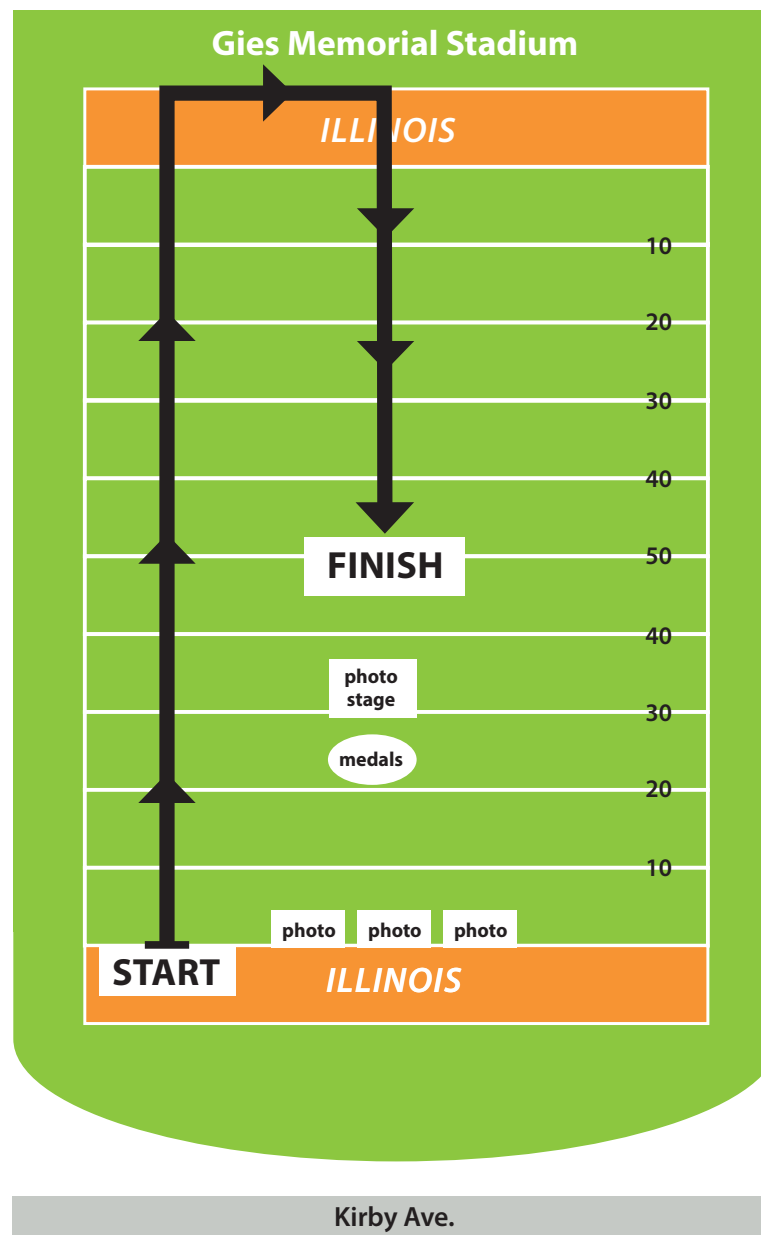
The Welcome Wave heat will be run on the same course, on the turf inside Gies Memorial Stadium. Running, walking, or rolling this heat in full or shortening this distance is welcomed! Please be aware that the surface material is artificial turf in planning for mobility. After you finish, if you are able ascend the stairs to the Great West Hall for postrace refreshments, do so. If accessing the Great West Hall doesn't work, we will have TO GO postrace food snack bags for your family.

## Exiting Gies Memorial Stadium

Participants in the Welcome Wave heat can exit the Stadium directly at the same level, through the northwest entrants to the Stadium. We will have to-go food bags for our Welcome Wave families. After the Welcome Wave, the remaining heats will be run according to grade.



Saturday, April 25, 2026  
(Cancellation date Sunday, April 26)  
3:00 p.m., Gies Memorial Stadium  
1402 S. First St., Champaign, IL



Official Youth Run Sponsor